

HISTORY OF  
COTNER UNIVERSITY

LEON A. MOOMAW

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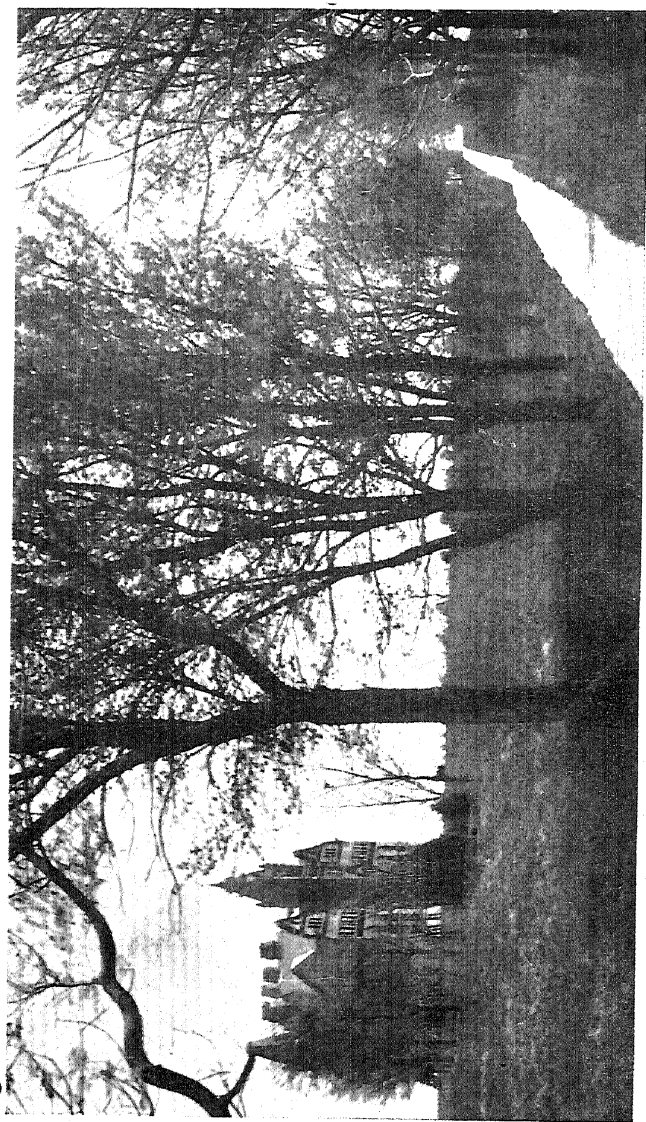
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# HISTORY

OF

# COTNER UNIVERSITY

including the

Early Religious and Educational Movement of  
the Christian Church in Nebraska.



By LEON A. MOOMAW, A. M.

*To the men who founded a Christian University in Nebraska; to the ones who have loyally stood by it during the twenty-seven years of its existence, and to the hundred of students, alumni and friends who love Cotner.*

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to our inquiry for information. We have a few cases of very important churches that are not given proper mention because we received no response. In the multiplicity of events, happenings and names, which have been connected with Cotner during the twenty-seven years, we have had to choose that which was representative, rather than to mention all. In the face of these conditions we hope you will not be too critical. We have given much of our energy, time and thought to this task; you are to judge the product.

I wish to express my appreciation to J. Z. Briscoe, C. W. Hemry, W. P. Aylsworth, J. W. Hilton and W. A. Baldwin for their special help in giving me information. Many of the present faculty and student body have been very kind in assisting in the work. The alumni have helped greatly. Many students in my classes have offered words of good cheer. But most of all, I am indebted to my wife for words of encouragement when I was blue, for sympathy when perplexed and for her constant help when in need of assistance.

LEON A. MOOMAW.

Bethany, Nebraska, May 12, 1916.

## CHAPTER I

### Early Educational and Religious History in Nebraska

In the days when "the west" was still eastern Nebraska; when the pioneer farmer was beginning to increase the size of the Indian squaw's garden, and divide the vast territory into quarters and sections, higher education in Nebraska had its beginning. After that memorable struggle in the United States Senate which resulted in the triumph of Stephen A. Douglas, by the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska bill in 1854, Nebraska became a territory and settlement began.

The first territorial legislature met January 15, 1855. Hon. T. B. Cuming, acting governor, in his first message called attention to the necessity of making careful provision for education. There was a committee on schools to which this part of the message was referred. During this first session charters were granted to Nebraska University to be located at Fontenelle, Simpson University at Omaha, and a Collegiate and Preparatory Institute at Nebraska City.

To be the home of a university seemed to be the first and highest ambition of all of Nebraska's earliest towns. At the second session of the legislature charters were granted to Nemaha University at Archer; Washington College at Cuming City; Plattsmouth Preparatory and Collegiate Institute; and the Western University at Cassville. At the next session another list was added: Brownville College and Lyceum, Salem Collegiate Institute, Rock Bluff Academy, Dakota Collegiate Institute, St. Mary's Female Academy, University of St. John and Omaha Medical University. In the fall session of the same year still more charters were asked for and granted to University of Nebraska, Wyoming College, Dewitt Collegiate Institute, Falls

City College, Literary Association of Elkhorn, and Dodge County Lyceum and Literary Association. In those early days there was a general feeling that the chartering of universities was a good thing. The legislature had blank charters all ready for introduction as soon as the name of the prospective school was inserted.<sup>1</sup>

The spirit of adventure and speculation entered largely into these new enterprises. They were joint stock companies created for financial gain. The towns started universities in order to advertise the locality. The high ideals of the true educator seem to have been lacking in most cases although the object as set forth in the charters was worthy enough, "to promote the general educational interests and to qualify students to engage in the several pursuits and employments of society and to discharge honorably and usefully the various duties of life."<sup>2</sup>

The propagation of religious denominationalism was not their great object although the charters read thus: "The profession of any particular religious faith shall not be required of those who become its students."<sup>2</sup> There was doubt in the minds of some, however, as to whether the non-Christian had a right to attend such schools because "the profession of any particular religious faith shall not be required," indicating that all students must profess some religious faith.

For these institutions, the Boards of Trustees consisted of from five to twenty members elected by the stockholders. The capital stock was from \$100,000 to \$200,000 aside from land, which in the early char-

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<sup>1</sup>The facts about the early educational movement in Nebraska and about the denominational colleges of the state have been secured largely from Morton's "History of Nebraska" and Caldwell's "Education in Nebraska."

<sup>2</sup>Legislative charters for colleges.



ters was limited to one thousand acres. Thus one gleans from pioneer Nebraska history that the nucleus for higher education was formed in the fifties with speculation rather than religion as its chief promoter.

Over sixty years ago a venturesome group of colonists from Quincy, Ill., wended its way across the new state of Iowa, now one great farm; ferried across the big, muddy Missouri, and set foot on Nebraska soil. A prospecting committee was sent on in advance to choose their location. A tract of land, located at the junction of the Platte and Elkhorn valleys, was purchased from Logan Fontenelle, chief of the Omaha Indians, for one hundred dollars. A new town immediately sprang up which was named after the Indian chief, a half breed, his father being a French educator of St. Louis. Here they selected, planned, and built new homes, laying aside one hundred acres for educational purposes, designating it as College Hill. The coloists formed a company known as the Nebraska Colonization Co., with strict laws and regulations. One hundred dollars was the price to be paid for membership in the company.

One of their number, Mr. Richardson, was chosen as agent to use his influence in the territorial legislature to secure a college charter. As has already been indicated a charter was secured and the new educational institution was named, Nebraska University. This has the distinction of being the first school to be chartered and to begin academic work in the territory of Nebraska.

Passing from the fifties to the seventies and eighties, speculation is joined by religious denominationalism as a motive power in university building. The pioneer settlers of Nebraska had come from the eastern states seeking homes in the west. Their first task was the erection of houses and the beginning of agricultural

pursuits. There was little community life because of the scarcity of settlers and the long distances between their homes. But as years advanced new families came and times grew more prosperous. Very naturally the first desire of their lives was the organization of churches in accordance with the religious affiliations of their youth. The various religious denominations sought to conquer the new land in behalf of their respective beliefs. The struggle became intense. Each sect early recognized the hopelessness of its task without the corresponding educational advantages. As an outgrowth of this recognized fact, came the foundation of the different denominational universities.

At the first annual meeting of the Congregational churches of Nebraska territory held at Omaha, October 30, 1857, this resolution was passed, "That we deem it expedient to take measures to lay the foundation of a literary institution of a high order in Nebraska."<sup>1</sup> A committee of three was appointed to view locations and receive propositions which resulted in the transfer of Nebraska University at Fontenelle, in 1858, to the Congregationalists. The early prospects for the school were bright but the approaching disappointments many. Fontenelle had hopes of securing a double prize, the county seat and the state capital; but settlement was pushing to the southwest which sealed its fate as a school center and a town. "Fremont secured the county seat and Fontenelle was set in another county; Lincoln was awarded its hoped-for capital; Crete its college and the open field its once ambitious town."<sup>2</sup> The Congregationalists saw that their college must be more centrally located, so Fontenelle was abandoned.

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<sup>1</sup>Rev. Harmon Bross, D. D., *Morton's History of Nebraska*, Vol. II, pp. 496.

<sup>2</sup>Rev. Harmon Bross, D. D., *Morton's History of Nebraska*, Vol. II, pp. 495.

Six hundred acres of land adjoining Crete was secured from the Burlington and Missouri River R. R. Company for educational purposes. This gift was received largely as a result of the influence of Thomas Doane, who was at the time chief engineer and superintendent of the Burlington in this section. In appreciation of this assistance the Congregationalists named the new school Doane College. Mr. Doane was a constant and liberal giver during life and upon his death left his estate as an endowment. The school opened in 1872 with only fifteen students and the president of the school, D. B. Perry, as the only teacher.

The first attempt of the Methodists toward higher education in Nebraska was to locate Simpson University at Omaha in 1855. As a financial basis they had been given fifty acres of land by Rev. Moses F. Shinn and twenty-five acres by T. B. Cuming, acting governor of Nebraska territory. This land is now very valuable being located in the heart of a fine residence district in Omaha. However, the whole project was abandoned on account of a disputed title to the land.

The second attempt was at Oreapolis, Nebraska. The chief promoter was John Evans, M. D. A few years previous to this time he had assisted in the founding of Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois, the town being so named in his honor. Later he became governor of Colorado and one of the influential men in the founding of Denver University. Oreapolis Seminary was doomed to failure because of the unpropitious time of its beginning. In 1880 a proposition was offered to the Methodists by York, which made it possible for York Seminary to be started. Its career too was brief although it did creditable work; and at one time had an attendance of over two hundred students. This school would probably have lived had it not been

for the close competition offered by the founding of two other colleges. In 1884, a school at Central City, Nebraska, was established and a \$10,000 building erected. Two years later Mallalieu University was started at Bartley, Nebraska. Each of these three schools had a prosperous beginning but later the financial conditions were so embarrassing that it became evident that none could continue to live. The pardonable sectional pride, which each different district had was not sufficient for the maintenance of a university within its borders, hence steps were taken by the Methodist church for a unification of its educational system in Nebraska. A plan accomplished by the establishment of Nebraska Wesleyan University at Lincoln. The other schools were soon abandoned, and all efforts were united in making this the educational center for the Methodists in Nebraska. The original building was erected at a cost of \$70,000. In recent years the C. C. White Memorial Hall has been added at a cost of \$50,000. To-day Nebraska Wesleyan ranks among the best educational institutions of the state.

Another denomination seeking to propagate its cause was the Presbyterian church which supports two colleges in Nebraska. In 1880, Bellevue College was founded as a result of the generous gift from Henry T. Clarke which consisted of two hundred and sixty-four acres of land with a promise to erect a building which he later did at a cost of \$16,000. At present there are five buildings, including the dormitory and the president's home, on the college campus at historic Bellevue, Nebraska.

Due to a spirit of rivalry a second Presbyterian college was opened at Hastings, Nebraska, in 1882. The campus of twenty-three acres is located just outside the city limits of Hastings, upon which are situated two buildings, McCormick Hall and Ringland Hall,

costing \$13,000 and \$20,000 respectively. Each of these schools is doing quite efficient work despite the fact that they have suffered financial "ups and downs."

That the Baptist church was also cognizant of the need of Christian education is proved by the tenor of the resolutions passed by the First Nebraska Baptist Association, meeting in 1858, "that we recommend to the churches composing this association the immediate formation of an educational society with the view of taking steps, at as early a date as may be deemed practicable, for founding and maintaining an educational institution of high grade at some central and convenient point within the territory."<sup>1</sup> This resulted in the establishment of a school, first at Gibbon and later the college at Grand Island, Nebraska. The city of Grand Island contributed very liberally to this undertaking. The preparations for the opening of the school were consummated in 1892.

The only Catholic university of the state had its beginning in the autumn of 1879. It was made possible by large gifts from Edward and John A. Creighton and their wives. The university known as "Creighton" is situated on a six-acre tract in the heart of the city of Omaha.

After the Methodists abandoned their work at York the United Brethern established a school according to their religious creed in that city. The school has had its reverses but at present is doing creditable work.

It is readily seen that between the years 1870 and 1895 the denominational struggle for the establishment of colleges was keen. It was a "sifting" period in which the determining factor was the old law of the "survival of the fittest." Each religious body was

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<sup>1</sup>Rev. A. W. Clark, Ph. D., *Morton's History of Nebraska*, Vol. II, page 432.

anxious to advance its cause, and each city liberal in its assistance, hoping to further its interests and development.

During this period the Christian church was also alert. The history of this organization in Nebraska dates back to the days when the pioneer and the open prairie were struggling for supremacy. Among those who migrated westward, some were members of the Christian church. In this new land they were loyal to those principles for which the church stood. They were willing to accept that great truth, "where the Bible speaks, we speak, and where it is silent, we are silent," to wear only the name of Christ; to accept the creed Jesus the Christ, the son of God and to plead for the unity of God's people. It seems that the first Christian preacher to deliver a sermon in the territory was a man named Foster. This occurred on June 15, 1845, not far from the present town of Ogalalla.<sup>1</sup> This, of course, preceded any concerted effort to establish churches.

The first Christian church organized in Nebraska was in January, 1855, at Brownville. This was due to the efforts of Richard Brown and Joel M. Wood who had arrived in the territory in 1854 and had been instrumental in the establishment of the town which had been named in honor of Mr. Brown. These men were both ardent Christians; Mr. Wood being a preacher of some prominence who began at once to preach to the newly arrived inhabitants. Another person connected with this work was John Mullis. This organization was unable to erect a church building for several years.

No history, however brief, of the early Christian

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<sup>1</sup>Joel Palmer "Journal of Travels over the Rocky Mountains." 1847. Page 23.

church of Nebraska can be written without mentioning at least three names, C. P. Evans, D. R. Dungan, and R. C. Barrow. While living at Sidney, Iowa, C. P. Evans<sup>1</sup> often visited Nebraska, preaching at various points, in the early sixties. He held a meeting which resulted in an organization being perfected at Plattsmouth in May, 1860. The next year, assisted by D. R. Dungan<sup>2</sup> and W. A. Denton, congregations were started

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<sup>1</sup>Charles P. Evans was born in Belmont county, Ohio, Feb. 2, 1827. His early education was received in the country schools. Later he took some work at Hiram College, Ohio, and at Kentucky University, Lexington, Ky. His scholarship was in advance of the ordinary student although he did not graduate from either of these institutions. Mr. Evans was born and raised on a farm and when but a lad of seventeen years was baptized into the Christian church. His home was alternately in Indiana and Iowa, prior to his movement to Arapahoe, Nebr., in 1887. He began his public career in 1849, being ordained to the ministry Dec. 31, 1855, in which work he has since been actively engaged. Elder Evans traveled and preached in nine different states, principally in Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska.

<sup>2</sup>David Roberts Dungan is a descendant of a remarkable family whose genealogy is traced back ten generations to the Earl of Dunganon. Originally the name came from Scotland and was spelled Duncan, the g being used in the English. Mr. Dungan was born in Indiana May 15, 1837. He spent his boyhood and received his early education in Indiana and western Iowa. He was a student in Kentucky University, Lexington, Ky., but received his A. M. degree from Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa. The degree of LL. D. was granted to Mr. Dungan from the University of Nebraska in 1891. Plattsmouth, Nebr., became his home in 1863 where he preached for two congregations and taught school during the winter months. Eight years were spent in the service of the Nebraska Christian Missionary Society, his work closing in 1874. For six years Mr. Dungan was a member of the Board of Regents of the State University; was a member of the Academy of Sciences and of the State Historical Society. Dr. Dungan was chaplain of the state legislature when held in Omaha and later when removed to Lincoln. During the years from 1890 to 1896 he was president of Cotner University. Previous to his being called to the presidency of Cotner, he had taught for seven years in Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa. After leaving Cotner he became dean of the Christian University, Canton, Mo. In 1905 he again became a member of

at Fontenelle, Papillion Creek and Ireland's Grove, while preaching was done at several other places.

In 1863 a co-operation meeting of the six Christian churches of Nebraska was held at Rock Bluff. A resolution was passed asking for assistance from the American Christian Missionary Society. In response to this call D. R. Dungan, who was engaged in teaching at Plattsmouth and occasional preaching at nearby points, was employed to begin missionary work. Six months later R. C. Barrow was engaged as evangelist and continued in the work for twenty-five years, when he was overtaken by death.<sup>1</sup> The co-operation meeting at Rock Bluff proved to be the beginning of the Nebraska Christian Missionary Society, and the employment of these two men, the most vital step in the organization of the Christian church movement in Nebraska. These men were always faithful to the cause, preaching wherever there was an opportunity whether in a school house, a deserted building, at some residence house or in a grove. Miles and miles were traveled upon horseback going from place to place. They were instrumental in organizing churches at Pawnee City, Omaha, Lincoln, Tecumseh, Nebraska City, Salem, Table Rock,

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the faculty at Drake University. He was married in 1861 to Mary Ann Kinnis to whom he owes much of his success in life. Mr. Dungan is at present residing in California.

<sup>1</sup>Robert Clark Barrow was born in Audes, New York, Aug. 18, 1832. He was unable to secure any school privileges until sixteen years of age and then for only three years. The rest of his education was received through his own efforts yet he acquired some knowledge of both Latin and Greek. At the age of twenty-six he became a member of the Christian church; shortly after, he began to preach, spending the remainder of his life in the ministry. Mr. Barrow preached in Pennsylvania until 1865 when he was appointed as evangelist for Nebraska territory by the Christian Missionary Society. Miss Helen Harding became his bride in 1856. Mr. Barrow died in Bethany, Nebr., Nov. 29, 1890.



Bell's Station (now Greenwood), Nemaha City and many other places.

The work done by the men in the sixties has continued to grow until at present there are two hundred Christian churches in the state. These early leaders created an educational conscience, so that they were ready, when other denominations began to plan for colleges and universities, to begin a similar work.

## CHAPTER II

### The Beginning of Fairfield College

The planting of a Christian college at Fairfield was the first realized attempt of the Christian church toward higher education in Nebraska. It seems, however, that at an earlier date the idea of a Christian educational institution had its beginning. While it is not a matter of record, it is probable that Hebron has a right to claim the honor of having been the first place discussed as a desirable location for a Christian college in Nebraska. During the great Chicago fire in 1871, a number of the members of the Christian church had been rendered homeless and destitute of worldly possessions. In the hope of bettering their condition they moved westward finally locating at Hebron, Nebraska. Isaac Errett, one of the pronounced leaders in the Christian church movement, purchased a half section of land near the town with the hope of having a college located upon this tract, but his hope failed of realization.<sup>1</sup>

The first Christian church of Nebraska was born in January, 1855. By the year 1863 there were six churches. At this early stage the need of co-operation was recognized and the six churches in a meeting held at Rock Bluff, Nebraska, sought assistance from the American Christian Missionary Society. This was the beginning of a united effort. Evangelists were placed

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<sup>1</sup>There are no records which prove that Hebron was discussed as a desirable location for a college but the writer has relied upon the memory of Mr. C. W. Hemry who gave us this information.

in the field to assist the established churches and to perfect new ones. There was need of a central body to outline the missionary tasks; to send evangelists into the field; to assist financially and otherwise in the creation and preservation of the church, and to provide the general program of Christian work; in other words there was need of a commander over all the Christian church forces of the state. In lieu of these facts the simple co-operative meeting of the six churches which had been held at Rock Bluff in 1863 became a complete organization in 1867, known as the Nebraska Christian Missionary Society. During the half century of its existence it has "been the fostering power of our movement in the state. It has gathered the small amounts that came in the early years from the poverty of the few and used it wisely so that the number of churches increased steadily. It made a dollar do three to ten times the work done by other religious bodies of the state. Its revenue never in any degree approached the needs of the field."<sup>1</sup> Thus it was for this society, as it viewed the great field, to indicate the need for education by the Christian church. But the keynote was not sounded until the twenty-first annual convention in 1878. Worthy T. Newcomb offered a resolution asking for the appointment of a college committee.<sup>2</sup> This wish was granted and Mr. Rowe, Mr. Bush and Mr. Newcomb were named. The selection of the committee proved to be the only thing accomplished.

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<sup>1</sup>W. A. Baldwin, *Christian Reporter*, Sept., 1909.

<sup>2</sup>Worthy T. Newcomb was a graduate of Hiram College, Ohio, in the class of 1873. After spending a few years in preaching for the Christian church he moved to Nebraska, locating upon a farm near Fairfield. The glowing reports which he sent back to his native state and his Alma Mater were responsible for bringing several Hiram graduates to Nebraska. He was very active in the early Christian church movement of the state.

Five years elapsed before any further desire for even a college committee took tangible form. At this later date the matter was presented by R. C. Barrow. As a result O. C. Hubbel, W. T. Newcomb and R. C. Barrow composed the committee which launched the plan that resulted in the founding of an educational institution at Fairfield. Being eager to initiate the new enterprise, the committee reported, in January, 1884, to a ministerial association which was held in Lincoln a half year before the next annual meeting of the missionary society. The town of Fairfield, in Clay county, was selected as the location for the proposed institution, a choice not entirely satisfactory to all. Objections were made by some to this location because there was only one railroad entering the town, the St. Joseph and Western. The territory from which most students would come was Nebraska. From the north, east and west there was no direct route to Fairfield. This was considered a great drawback. Undoubtedly the whole plan was rather hastily formed and executed.

As is almost always true in such an undertaking, there was one individual who was the guiding spirit; in this instance that man was Worthy T. Newcomb. During the seventies Mr. Newcomb came west from his native state of Ohio and settled on a farm near Fairfield. The new environment increased his glowing hopes of the great possibilities which the west possessed as it did for every man who breathed its atmosphere.

Prior to the time that the Nebraska Christian Missionary Society had appointed its college committee,

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Speaking of Mr. Newcomb's connection with Fairfield College, Thomas L. Fowler says: "There was one man entitled to more credit for Fairfield and its work than any other person, and I think I would be justified in saying than all others combined. If the history of the institution should be written the name of W. T. Newcomb would stand at the head." Mr. Newcomb is at present residing upon a small ranch at Santa Cruz, California.

three hundred and forty-five acres of land had been purchased by W. T. Newcomb from W. T. Stephens for \$10,500. This tract, together with twenty acres donated by S. J. Anthony, Mrs. T. J. Newcomb and others, formed a nucleus around which the Board of Trustees, consisting of nine men,<sup>1</sup> began the enterprise. Three hundred and sixty-five acres of land was a larger basis than most schools of this type were able to secure for a foundation. The Fairfield Christian church was organized in a school house by W. T. Newcomb, June 16, 1878, the number of charter members being eight. So rapid was its growth that by the year 1885 its membership had increased to two hundred and five. It was realized that this growing church would be of great assistance to the proposed school.

Fairfield was a town of promise, hearty in its good will toward the new college. However, it had no chance of becoming a real city although it was situated in one of the best farming districts of the state. The following is a fitting description of the place: "Fairfield, the home of the college, is situated in Clay county, Nebraska, in the midst of the beautiful rolling prairie of the South Platte country. It is a prosperous and growing town, rapidly increasing in prosperity and material wealth. Not the least among the causes for its prosperity is the fact that it is absolutely without saloons or other like places of resort. Five churches have congregations in the town. A rich farming community surrounds the town and is the source of a flourishing trade."<sup>2</sup>

Perhaps a more beautiful spot could not have been

<sup>1</sup>Members of first board of trustees for Fairfield College: W. T. Newcomb, Fairfield, Nebr.; J. P. Nixon, Fairfield; Ira Titus, Fairfield; J. R. Nelson, Fairbury, Nebr.; R. C. Barrow, Tecumseh, Nebr.; N. B. Allen, Lincoln, Nebr.; Charles Rockhill, Harvard, Nebr.; S. B. Montgomery, Edgar, Nebr.; Cleveland Eller, Clay Center, Nebr.

<sup>2</sup>First Annual Catalogue Fairfield College.

secured for a college site. The description of the campus is even more picturesque than is that of the town. "It consists of twelve acres of land selected from the three hundred acres belonging to the college, on account of its special adaptation for this purpose. The land sloping gradually in all directions gives it a wide prospect and a commanding situation. The view from the site of the main building over the town and surrounding country is one of extreme beauty. The grounds have been skillfully laid out with shaded drives, groves, shrubbery, arbors and fountains so as to make one of the most beautiful spots in the west."<sup>1</sup>

At a special meeting of the Board of Trustees held July 2, 1884, it was decided to begin school, although the erection of a college building had been postponed because delay was considered wise from a business point of view. The land could have been sold immediately and a building erected, but it was thought that real estate would greatly increase in value if the college building could be constructed first. In accordance with this idea donations for a building fund were solicited, a plan which naturally appeals to one as farsighted. By securing enough cash donations, the Trustees would leave their property in land untouched which would be increasing in market value as a result of the new college and the added impetus accruing to the town.

For two years the old church building and two temporary rooms were used for school purposes. By the fall of 1886, a new brick structure containing nineteen class rooms was completed at a cost of about \$12,000.

At first the school bore the name of Fairfield Normal and Collegiate Institute, but in 1889, it was changed to Fairfield College. During the first year of school, be-

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<sup>1</sup>First annual catalogue of Fairfield College.

ginning in September, 1884, twenty-six Nebraska lads and lasses appeared for registration. By the third year the attendance had grown to one hundred and thirty-seven.<sup>1</sup> This was the greatest number of students ever enrolled during any one year in Fairfield's history.

Fairfield College extended the hand of opportunity to many a youth. Its privileges could be accepted because the expense was small. The tuition in each department was at the rate of seventy-five cents per week. The cost for board and room is given in these words: "Good boarding has been provided, for several years past, at an average per week of less than \$1.60, making the cost of room rent, tuition, incidentals and boarding at less than \$115 for the entire year and for those who prepare for the ministry at less than \$90."<sup>2</sup>

Three principal courses of study were offered in the college, viz: Normal, Classical and Biblical. Each year saw the public school system more thoroughly perfected. There was a growing need for more teachers. The normal course was intended to meet this demand in that it was able "to fully equip young men and women for that most important work, teaching."<sup>3</sup> The classical course contained the usual amount of modern and ancient languages, particular emphasis being laid upon Greek and Latin. As Fairfield College held religion to be its basic principle, special emphasis was naturally laid upon the study of the Bible. It was not untrue to its foster mother, the Nebraska Christian Missionary Society and provided the Biblical course which en-

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<sup>1</sup>Records have been destroyed so we can only give the attendance for the years available: 1884-'85—26; 1885-'86—134; 1886-'87—137; 1887-'88—127; 1888-'89—96; 1891-'92—133; 1896-'97—67.

<sup>2</sup>Minutes of the twenty-sixth annual convention of the Nebraska Christian Missionary Society for 1893.

<sup>3</sup>First catalogue of Fairfield College.

deavored "to give accurate and unbiased interpretation to all Scriptures and reasonable deductions therefrom."<sup>1</sup> In addition to these regular courses, work was given in music, art, commercial and preparatory branches.

The career of Fairfield College was begun. A college building had been erected, courses of study outlined, teachers employed, and students were enjoying its advantages. Similar words might be spoken of Fairfield College as were uttered by Alexander Campbell concerning Hiram College in Ohio when it was in its infancy and Ohio was the western frontier: "Such institutions, well conducted, are streams that make the wilderness and solitary place glad, and contribute to the cause of human redemption."<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>First catalogue of Fairfield College.

<sup>2</sup>History of Hiram College by F. M. Green, pp. 53.



## CHAPTER III

### The Decline of Fairfield College

Fairfield College was born in 1884, and entered upon what seemed a life of promise. Many a child does not enter the prime of life when it is called by the grim reaper; thus it was with Fairfield College. In 1898, after an existence of fourteen years, her doors were closed, never to be opened again. It is now for the writer, as the historian of these events, to record its decline. Since it has now been almost thirty-two years since its incipency, when one turns to secure the facts upon which to base this history, unfortunately there is little historical material remaining, save memory. Many men, women and youths as teachers and students had staked their all upon Fairfield College. They were all losers; some who had taken part in the building of the new school lost financially; others as teachers lost because they gave the best years of their lives in its service; while still others were losers, for they found themselves alumni of a vanished college. One to whom an inquiry was directed says, "With no data at hand to refresh our memory we can give you but little."<sup>1</sup> Another says: "I do not have a single thing in my possession from the college, not even a catalogue. As I lost all I had in the college, even to a hundred-sixty acres of land, I have tried to forget all I ever knew about the institution, and have succeeded pretty well, for which I am thankful."<sup>2</sup> So it is wherever we inquire. Only fragments in printed form remain; and memory, after a quarter of a century, is uncertain.

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<sup>1</sup>Personal letter from E. von Forell, Scottsbluff, Nebr.

<sup>2</sup>Personal letter from A. J. Mercer, Kearney State Normal, Kearney, Nebraska.

One can only tell a meagre, disconnected story. Between the lines one must read of the many events unrecorded by printed page or dimmed memory.

One thing which causes a school to live in the minds of men, although it no longer exists in material form, is its teachers. The first president of Fairfield College was C. W. Hemry. By invitation, Mr. Hemry was



C. W. Hemry  
First President of Fairfield

present at the meeting of the Board of Trustees held in July, 1884, and at that time was called to lead the new school. Associated with him were Mrs. C. W. Hemry and O. C. Hubbel, who composed the first

faculty. These three individuals were classmates in Hiram College, being graduates with the class of 1872. Mr. and Mrs. Hemry were called from responsible positions in Ohio and proved themselves efficient teachers.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Hubbel was at the time principal of the Hastings, Nebraska, High School.<sup>2</sup> A graduate of Fairfield College recently said of him: "No better teacher ever taught, he was a teacher born."

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<sup>1</sup>Chas. W. Hemry was born near Findlay, Hancock County, Ohio, Aug. 30, 1841, where he grew to manhood. His early education was received in the district school and a normal school near his home. He enlisted in Co. D, 99th O. V. I. and was discharged on account of wounds received in service in February, 1865. After the war he attended school and taught until 1867 when he entered Hiram College, from which school he was graduated in 1872. Soon after graduation he married Alice C. Squire, a graduate of the same class. Mr. Hemry served as pastor of Ohio churches previous to his being called to take charge of the school then being established by the Christian church at Fairfield, Nebr. From 1884 to 1886 Mr. Hemry served as president of Fairfield, and teacher at the same time. For several years he was educational representative of Cotner University and for two years was editor and publisher of the Christian News at Bethany, Nebr. Mr. Hemry was engaged in school and church work in Clay county from 1897 to 1913, when he moved to Lincoln for a home, after so many years of active, laborious work. His interest in church work has not lessened although it is of necessity less strenuous than in former years.

Alice Squire Hemry is a native of Ohio, of sturdy New England stock. Her early education was received in the district school, her college training being taken at Hiram College graduating with the class of '72. Since her marriage to Mr. Hemry in 1872 she ever has been a faithful helper as well as the able manager of the home. Mrs. Hemry taught for five years in Fairfield College, and afterward the same length of time was served as principal and instructor in the Fairfield High School. The Christian Woman's Board of Missions work has been a vital part of Mrs. Hemry's life.

<sup>2</sup>O. C. Hubbel was born in Warrenville, Ohio, Feb. 23, 1844. His home was in that state until 1878 when, charmed by the glowing written accounts of the west, he came to Nebraska where he taught in the public schools until becoming connected with Fairfield College, first as teacher and later as president. Mr. Hubbel was a graduate of Hiram College in 1872. After graduation he was superintendent of the schools at Bedford and Chagrin Falls Ohio. In Nebraska, Mr. Hubbel taught in the

After two years as president of Fairfield, Mr. Hemry resigned on account of lack of harmony with certain members of the faculty. He was succeeded by W. P. Aylsworth, a graduate of Bethany College, West Virginia.<sup>1</sup> Before coming west, Professor Aylsworth had gained considerable prominence as a Christian preacher in Ohio, his last pastorate being at Columbus. He had already been at Fairfield College one year as instructor in the Biblical department previous to the call to the presidency. As an interpreter of the Bible, Professor Aylsworth had already created attention; and he later became one of the best teachers of the Bible in the west. At the close of two years service as president, Professor Aylsworth accepted a position in Cotner University, thus leaving Fairfield College again without a leader.

Professor O. C. Hubbel served during the year 1888, as acting president when Thomas L. Fowler, a Canadian by birth but a graduate of Bethany College, West

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public schools of Sutton and Hastings. Since 1904 he has been engaged in the milling business at Deweese, Nebr. The year 1915-'16, Mr. Hubbel spent in California, in the land of roses and sunshine.

<sup>1</sup>William Prince Aylsworth was born in Cuba, Ill., Dec. 12, 1844. He was reared upon a farm and attended the country schools. He was prepared for college in Wauconda Academy. After teaching for several years, attaining the rank of principal in the high school, he entered Chicago University. He finished his sophomore year and then entered Bethany College, West Virginia where he received his A. B. degree in 1869. Later he received the A. M. from the same institution. Mr. Aylsworth now entered the regular work of the ministry, serving important churches at South Bend, Angola, Union City and Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Columbus, Ohio. A fever quite common in those days, now took possession of him; it was expressed in "go west, young man, go west," so in 1886 he came to Fairfield, Nebr., where he served the church and college for three years. For the past twenty-seven years his name has been inseparably linked with the history of Cotner University. Few men connected with the Christian church and educational movement in the central west are held in higher esteem than William P. Aylsworth.

Virginia in 1880, was called to the leadership of Fairfield College. His success in the ministry in Canada had been marked. He was also an educator of rare type, but he remained with the school for only two years.<sup>1</sup>

Although Mr. Hubbel had asked to be relieved, he was again persuaded to accept the presidency of Fairfield College. Much gratitude is due him for his faithfulness and constancy. He was the only person connected with the school from its beginning to its end. A kindly, helpful spirit was always shown which won the respect and esteem of all who came into his classroom or into his presence.

Many of the other teachers of Fairfield College are deserving of special mention. A. M. Chamberlain, a graduate of Butler College, Indianapolis, Indiana, was the first professor of mathematics; he was succeeded by A. J. Mercer, a present member of the faculty of the Kearney State Normal. Miss Cora Clark followed Mrs. C. W. Hemry as instructor in Latin. Each was a thorough and devoted teacher. Miss Clark was a graduate of Oberlin College, Ohio. Professor L. W. Smith, one of the early graduates of Fairfield, later became one of its best teachers. At present he is a professor in Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa.

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<sup>1</sup>Thomas L. Fowler was born in Yarmouth, Ontario, Canada, in 1851. At the age of twenty-four he entered the Collegiate Institute of St. Thomas where he spent three years. In 1880 he was graduated from Bethany College, West Virginia, with the A. B. degree. Later he received the A. M. from a Canadian college. His life has been given to the work of the ministry and to Christian education. After nine years of successful ministry in Ontario he was called to the presidency of Fairfield. Upon leaving Fairfield College he returned to Ontario, preaching for the church at London. In 1895 the Christian churches of Ontario established a Bible college. For nine years Mr. Fowler served as president. Many ministers have received their training here. Mr. Fowler now resides at West Lorne.

Simpson Ely, for a time head of the Bible department, was a former president of Christian University, Canton, Missouri. A number of others might be named. It is sufficient to say that all held degrees from creditable schools and that the teaching staff was above the average.

The faculty maintained careful oversight over its students. Its policy was "to aid the student in forming good habits; to teach him self-reliance and self-government."<sup>1</sup> In case of necessity the faculty was empowered to "suspend, dismiss or expel." No special rules had been formulated because of the good moral influence surrounding the school. All students were required to attend chapel and advised to attend on Sunday, one of the five churches located within the town.

The first graduate of Fairfield College was J. W. Elliott in the year 1889. Among the other graduates may be named Sherman Hill, E. von Forell, Dr. Earl Boyd, V. G. Shirley, L. W. Smith, Frank F. Johnson, T. H. Beali and J. R. Teagarden.

Fairfield College, like many other denominational schools of the early period, was doomed to failure. Undertakings of a philanthropic nature have always had a struggle for existence. The land belonging to Fairfield College was platted in August, 1884. Many lots were sold, but not enough to pay the original purchase price of \$10,500, and furnish in addition a cash fund of any importance. By the year 1892, the financial condition of the college was serious. The following statement is found in the report of the secretary for that year: "Owing to the close times for the past two years our hopes in regard to finances were not fully realized, but with the return of prosperity throughout

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<sup>1</sup>Annual catalogue Fairfield College.

the state the outlook is much better.'<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately they were mistaken for prosperity in any permanent form had not returned. The hardest years were to come after 1892. However, they were able to reduce the debt from \$13,000 to \$10,000 in 1893. The years 1893 to 1896 were ones never to be forgotten by those who experienced them. Crop failures and financial depression were almost too much for the struggling school and soon it was compelled to borrow \$10,000 from the Nebraska Loan and Trust Company of Hastings, Nebraska. This company took a mortgage upon the building, campus and several lots belonging to the college. Besides the campus, the college still owned two hundred town lots and eighty-eight one-acre tracts. But there was no sale for them. The great land "boom" was over. It would have been easy for the college to have met its obligations if it could have sold its lots at even a low price.

Another hindrance to continued success was found in the fact that Cotner University had been established in 1889, and was already beginning to overshadow Fairfield College. The enrollment had greatly declined as there were only sixty-seven in all departments. Conditions gradually grew worse until in 1899 the mortgage was foreclosed and Fairfield College ceased to exist.

The promoters of Fairfield did not give up without a struggle. In 1896, Mr. T. J. Williamson was employed to have complete oversight and management of the college; but for some reason he left without notice. The management was then placed in the hands of Virgil G. Shirley, E. E. Boyd and Prof. C. H. Beall. These young men managed the school in a very skillful way. E. von Forell was acting as Fairfield's financial agent. By 1897, the Loan and Trust Company offered

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<sup>1</sup>Nebraska Christian Missionary Society report 1892.

to accept \$8,000 for their \$10,000 claim. It was to be paid on the installment plan; \$1500 to be paid October 1, 1897, and a second payment October 1, 1898, of \$1500. A new loan was to be made for the balance as follows: \$3,000 to be secured by a mortgage on the college and campus; \$1,000 payable at the end of each of three, four and five years. The last \$2,000 was secured by giving a mortgage upon the land, the amount to be payable within five years. All loans were to draw six per cent interest. It seemed that the above terms would surely make possible the redemption of the school. If the college could sell its two hundred lots at \$30 each and the eighty-eight one-acre lots at \$50 each it would amount to \$10,400. But all plans, hopes and dreams failed and Fairfield college had to be abandoned.

Several times attempts were made to unite Fairfield College and Cotner University under the same governing body. The feeling between the two schools was always more or less strained. The Trustees of Cotner University felt that the Fairfield authorities wanted far too much for their property. Finally, at the time when the union came nearest to consummation, it was thwarted by plans made by certain members of the Fairfield Board of Trustees who decided to refuse to deed over the property.

A history of Fairfield College would not be complete without paying a tribute to its principal founder, W. T. Newcomb and his devoted wife. Their names are worthy of being written among the heroes and heroines of any pioneer movement. Their unselfish devotion and cheerful sacrifices in both time and money are characteristic of their noble lives.

Fairfield was not a modern college. as it did not use the methods nor did it have the equipment possessed by colleges to-day. No college of that period could



boast of being equal to those of the present time. It may safely be left to two of Fairfield's students to estimate the work done. "The old school did not live in vain, many went out from its halls to render service and count for one in the world's activities."<sup>1</sup> The other said, "The two years here were well spent. The instructors at the time were Professors Fowler, Hubbel, Mercer, Clark and Smith. Possibly there were not a hundred students enrolled, but there was good earnest work done and an interest and sympathy in every student's life that did much toward shaping their lives into future usefulness."<sup>2</sup>

The writer's search for facts has led him to have an interview by letter or person with each of Fairfield's four presidents but each time, it has to be confessed, that but little information has been received. Scarcely a written page recording the great mass of events that occurred during the fourteen years of its life is found. Upon visiting Mr. Hemry the information was obtained that for several years they had kept the catalogues, papers, etc., relative to the college but that in 1913, when they moved to Lincoln, they had been destroyed. Dr. Aylsworth said, "I haven't a single thing, not even a catalogue." Thomas L. Fowler writes from his Canadian home that it is impossible to summarize the work done "without more data than I have at my disposal." After writing three pages of a personal letter about the college, Professor Hubbel says, "I realize the above sketch is quite meager but so it must be for I have no records to help me."

So we close our history of Fairfield, leaving many, many events to that great unlimited mass of unwritten history which has sunk into oblivion.

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<sup>1</sup>Personal letter from E. von Forell, Scottsbluff, Neb.

<sup>2</sup>Personal letter from Elva Rulon Peru, Nebr.

## CHAPTER IV

### The Inception of Nebraska Christian University

The first idea of Nebraska Christian University originated as a purely business proposition. In the youthful days of Nebraska the speculative, venturesome side of man's nature was reaching out for big things. This new enterprise was not the product of one man's mind nor even of a group of men of the Christian church, but grew out of a desire, on the part of Lincoln business men, to have another college or university located in their rapidly growing city. During the year 1886, these business and real estate men offered two hundred acres of land to the people of the Baptist church provided they would erect an educational institution upon the property. The committee, appointed by the Baptist church to consider this offer, decided that as they already had one college in the state, the founding of another would be impractical.

The business men's proposition was now taken to Mr. J. Z. Briscoe,<sup>1</sup> president of the Nebraska Christian

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<sup>1</sup>Joseph Z. Briscoe is of Pennsylvania origin, being born March 1, 1838. He received his education in the common schools of his native state and later completed a course at Duffs Merchants College, Pittsburg. The principal of the school in Sept. 29, 1855, recommends him in these words: "It is due Mr. Briscoe to state that he possesses rare qualifications for business." In the early days he became a school teacher in Pennsylvania, but began farming when he moved to Sarpy county, Nebr. He became county commissioner of this county and later held the same office in Lancaster county. For several years he was very successful in the boot and shoe business in Lincoln. For a time Mr. Briscoe was a member of the city council of Lincoln. A more active member of the Christian church in the early day could not be found. For years he was chairman of the board of the First Christian church of Lincoln and was chairman of the committee that erected the memorable first church building. Later he was a member of the building com-

Missionary Society and a prominent member of the Christian church, asking that he present it to that religious body. Probably it did not show as great wisdom as did the Baptist church when it declined the offer because it already had one college in Nebraska. Fairfield Normal and Collegiate Institute was under the direction of the Christian church; but as already noted, there was considerable feeling of dissatisfaction with its location, especially by the members of the church in the vicinity of Lincoln. This marked the beginning of strife between two factions of the Christian church. Bitter feeling was thus aroused which may occasionally be seen although more than a quarter of a century has passed.

Mr. Briscoe felt that the suggested proposition would receive favorable consideration from the Christian church; hence he took it upon himself, as president of the missionary society, to appoint a committee to investigate the whole matter and report to the next

mittee for the beautiful church in Bethany. Almost continuously during his life Mr. Briscoe has taught a Bible school class. For seven years he was president of the Nebraska Christian Missionary Society. Because of his energy and good judgment Mr. Briscoe was able to amass a considerable fortune at one time. This was all swept away in the crisis of the nineties. Mr. E. E. Brown, cashier of the Columbus National Bank of Lincoln, writes as follows of Mr. Briscoe in 1897: "For several years past Mr. Briscoe has been identified with Cotner University near this city. To the upbuilding of this university he has spent most of his time and nearly, if not quite his entire fortune which I have heard estimated at from \$50,000 to \$75,000. I am told that this university is at present greatly in need of financial aid to prevent it from being sacrificed. This is due to the great depression in land values and financial stringency rather than to mismanagement. I give it as my opinion that if all the people who profess to take a great interest in this university had supported it with the zeal and energy and given to it the same financial aid which Mr. Briscoe has, the institution would today be in a flourishing condition." At present Mr. Briscoe is a respected and honored citizen of Bethany, Nebr., still keenly interested in the welfare of the town and the college.

annual convention of the society.<sup>1</sup> The Nebraska Christian Missionary Society is the advisory body of the Christian churches of the state; and each year at its annual convention outlines the general program for the succeeding months. The proposition of the Lincoln business men was not presented in time for the making of a thorough investigation but it was able to report that the proposition seemed worthy of further consideration. A recommendation was also made that a permanent committee of seven be appointed vested with power to receive and accept propositions, to incorporate and to found a college if it was deemed wise. This meant that if such a recommendation be passed by a vote of the missionary society, the committee of seven men had authority to erect another college building and maintain another school in Nebraska under the direction of the Christian church. At first it was not heartily endorsed by all members of the convention. It "called forth quite a spirited discussion"<sup>2</sup> in which men of prominence took part; among whom were W. P. Aylsworth, then president of Fairfield College, and W. T. Newcomb, who had been the leading factor in its establishment; R. C. Barrow, for twenty years a pioneer preacher and evangelist; and E. T. Gadd of Omaha. Despite some opposition and ill-will, at first, it was unanimously passed and the committee of seven appointed.<sup>3</sup>

On September 7, 1887, the first meeting of the university committee was called. The officers named were J. Z. Briscoe, chairman, and Porter Hedge, secretary.

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<sup>1</sup>C. C. Munson was chairman. Other members of the committee are not known.

<sup>2</sup>Nebraska Christian Missionary Society report for 1887.

<sup>3</sup>The seven men appointed to act as the university committee were: J. Z. Briscoe, Porter Hedge, G. E. Biglow and J. B. Johnson of Lincoln; W. P. Aylsworth of Fairfield, E. T. Gadd of Omaha and W. W. West of Unadilla.

It was decided to meet the men representing the prospective donors of land at the Windsor Hotel that afternoon. Following a short discussion, carriages were secured and all drove to the proposed site known as the Hawley farm, where the rest of the afternoon was spent viewing the land. Nothing was agreed upon as the university committee felt it was necessary to secure more land.

It was only after the lapse of several months, during which time offers were made and rejected, that a donation of three hundred and twenty-one acres and eighteen lots (valued at \$4,000) of land was accepted.<sup>1</sup> George E. Bigelow has the distinction of having made, on January 23, 1888, the motion "that the committee locate the university upon the southeast one-fourth of section sixteen, township ten, north of range seven, east."<sup>2</sup> Thus was the location determined and the plan launched. The beautiful building which was to mean so much to many a youth was still vague in the minds of the promoters. Little did they realize how much of success and failure was to attend their cherished plans. The financial depression of the nineties was unforeseen. It was better that those so interested

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<sup>1</sup>The list of donors with amounts given is as follows: W. H. Goodrich, 26 acres; W. Lennard, 10 acres; A. J. Cropsy, 85 acres; W. Ruliffson, 12½ acres; L. Leavitt 15 acres; C. M. Leighton, 10 acres; W. W. Webster, 10 acres; Stevens & Glade, 10 acres; J. Z. Broscoe, 10 acres; U. Young, 10 acres; W. S. Mills, 10 acres; L. Morgan, 15 acres; L. G. Leavitt, 5 acres; Havelock owners, 10 acres; Dr. Paine, 23½ acres; T. F. Barnes, 15 acres; Bond & Colby, 10 acres; Mrs. Boyd, 5 acres; F. M. Horsford, 5 acres; C. F. Goodman, 10 acres; Melick and McClay, 20 acres. In addition to this acreage there were 18 lots valued at \$4,000.

<sup>2</sup>Record Book of Board Proceedings, pp. 23.

Note—The record book containing all the proceedings of the Board of Trustees of Cotner University to 1896 is in the possession of J. Z. Briscoe and is the chief source from which much of the information for the early history has been secured. It will hereafter be referred to as Record Book of Board Proceedings.

in the new enterprise were unable to look down the vista of time and see all of its struggles, for it would have brought discouragement and prevented their planning and working with such undiminished zeal.

Up to this time these seven men were only a committee representing the Nebraska Christian Missionary Society; but they had been given power to form an educational corporation. Porter Hedge, who was a lawyer, drew up articles of incorporation which were accepted. Thereafter the business was to be carried on by a Board of Trustees consisting of twelve persons, a majority of whom must be members of the Christian church and elected by the missionary society.

The founders of this movement were all well-meaning Christian men. Perhaps in some instances they were not as wise and far-sighted from a business standpoint as they should have been; yet they were anxious to establish a worthy institution to be guided by worthy Christian men and women. They stated in the articles of incorporation "that all property which may be held by said Board of Trustees shall be held in behalf of the Christian church of Nebraska and shall be devoted to educational purposes and not for individual profit."<sup>1</sup> It is also interesting to note that—perhaps as a safeguard against undue speculation—the Board of Trustees limited the indebtedness upon university property, to a sum not to exceed \$50,000.

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<sup>1</sup>Record Book of Board Proceedings, page 3 in Articles of Incorporation.

## CHAPTER V

### The Laying of the Cornerstone

While progress had been made, the goal was still in the distance. The university building must be planned and the town laid out. As the eye of the new owners viewed the great donation of land, in the past and even then, a great corn field, it led the Board of Trustees to choose its highest point, upon which to locate the coveted structure. Twenty acres of land were reserved for a campus. It was decided that the foundation should be commenced before the first day of May, 1888. Mr. O. H. Placey of Chicago, who a little earlier had been a competitor for a similar position in connection with Nebraska Wesleyan University, was chosen as architect and general superintendent. One thousand dollars was the consideration to be paid Mr. Placey. The construction of the building was to be a "first class stone foundation and basement; walls to be faced with Milwaukee or St. Louis pressed brick and a slate roof."<sup>1</sup> The building was to be four stories high above the basement.

The home of the university was to be called "Bethany Heights" in honor of Bethany College in West Virginia, the oldest educational institution of the Christian church. "Old Bethany" was the pivot around which the efforts of this new religious organization centered. It was the home of Thomas and Alexander Campbell, who had sounded the keynote upon which the church was founded in 1809. It was only natural that those founding a university in the new west should have a kindly feeling for the old land marks and a fond desire that this new institution might prosper as had the old.

The main street of Bethany Heights was named in

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<sup>1</sup>Record Book of Board Proceedings, pp. 31.

honor of ex-Governor Alvin W. Saunders. It was one hundred feet wide, extending along the west side of the campus and through the entire donation received by the university committee. A unique idea was carried out in naming other streets after the various colleges of the Christian church, and to-day a map of the town would show that the streets or avenues are called Drake, Fairfield, Hiram, Eureka, Butler, Canton, Garfield and Lexington.

A new task now presented itself to the promoters. People must be interested in this undertaking. This field must undergo a complete change. These lots must be sold and homes erected upon them.

That great interest was taken in this new educational movement is proved by the fact that the State Missionary Convention of August 30, 1888, went in a body to the proposed location to assist in laying the cornerstone of the university. The religious motive, which prompted the movement, the events of the day and the dreams of the supporters of the undertaking are described in these words: "This being university day at 10 a. m. the people gathered at the corner of O and Eleventh streets to take the carriages that had been provided, while at least two hundred boarded the Missouri Pacific train leaving at 10:25 for Newman station, arriving there after a pleasant ride of a few minutes. The station is three quarters of a mile from the campus. The walk was not at all unpleasant even if the mercury was peeping out of the top of the tube, and many of the gentlemen pushed ahead, while the ladies waited the arrival of carriages and two immense hay wagons that were pressed into service. It was nearly 12 o'clock before the last carriage arrived from the city, and the early comers were given a good opportunity to examine the campus and the surrounding property.



There is nothing startling in Nebraska scenery but many hilltops disclose views of surprising beauty. The committee selected such an elevation for the site of the university. The campus is a beautiful slope, with the building on the highest point. From the foundation walls the observer can look over the corn that covers the campus in front of the proposed building, and a wide scope of country is seen. The city is plainly in sight directly in front; the Capitol, the church spires, the Burr block and the State University cutting the horizon line and coming prominently into view. Directly west, the buildings of West Lincoln appear like children's blocks laid on a stretch of prairie so far away that it is covered with a light haze. To the left are the gently rolling hills covered with tasseled corn with ragged yellow lines indicating where the roads are, and here and there a solid field of smiling sunflowers. Over the low swell on the northwest can be seen the black slate roof of the Wesleyan University, a sister to the institution now rising on this spot. To the right and in the rear are hills that cut off the view on a small arc of the circle of horizon that sweeps around so many miles away, but from the upper windows of the building the view will extend unbroken in every direction.

It is an ideal location for a Christian University. The city, four miles away, is easily accessible by steam cars, and will soon be reached by a horse car line. There is pure water in abundance. The campus is surrounded by residence lots that will tempt many to make their homes here. The future of this Christian and educational suburb is certainly bright.

A few blocks north of the building is a grove and here, the principal exercises of the day were held. Three or four hundred persons were here at noon, when lunch was spread on tables under the trees.

Seats and shade were plentiful and the people enjoyed themselves in picnic fashion for several hours.

The exercises opened shortly after one o'clock with the singing of hymns and prayer by W. T. Maupin of Hastings. B. J. Radford<sup>1</sup> of Eureka, Ill., was then announced for the principal address of the day. He outlined the object of the gathering, which was primarily to lay the cornerstone of a great university, and asked why it was necessary, in view of the excellent educational advantages enjoyed by the city of Lincoln, to plant the new university. The speaker then proceeded to give briefly and pointedly the need of the Christian college that had been founded. The need primarily was stated to be the necessity for fostering the public and private conscience. Will secular education develop the needed conscience? This education without other aids will not fulfill the real mission of education. A non-sectarian college diploma is, after all, a very unsatisfactory indication that the possessor has a good moral character; it does not indicate what his religion is; it tells nothing except that the young man has gone through a little intellectual gymnastics. More than this is needed. We need a distinctly Christian education for our young men and women. Secular education has had its day. One generation of it has proven that it is inadequate to the task of making strong and vigorous Christian character. Culture is all right. It should be made the hand-maid of religion. But secular culture is a broken reed to lean upon. When we lean upon that we put in the background moral culture. This was proven in the mind of the speaker by the history of his native city of Cincinnati, which banished the Bible from the public schools a generation ago and is now seeing the bad effects that followed the banish-

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<sup>1</sup>Associate editor of the "Christian Standard," published in Cincinnati, Ohio.

ment of God from education. What should we base our intellectual culture upon. The Bible. \* \* \* You are making no mistake in making the Bible the cornerstone of this university.”<sup>1</sup>

The crowning event of the day was the laying of the cornerstone. This was done in a very fitting manner. A copper box had been secured which was to be placed in the cornerstone, containing a number of articles, among which were the daily papers of the city, the religious papers of the denomination and catalogues from colleges of the Christian church. Prior to this time we might call this whole movement a dream. From now on it was a reality. The town was named, the streets laid out and the Nebraska Christian Missionary Society, which was the governing power, had sanctioned the movement by their presence in a body and had assisted in laying the cornerstone. Would the dream be a complete realization?

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<sup>1</sup>Proceedings of the 21st Annual Christian Missionary Convention August, 1888, page 29.

## CHAPTER VI

### The City of Lincoln

A history of Cotner University would be incomplete unless it contained a brief account of the beginnings and early growth of the city of Lincoln. The village of Bethany being virtually a part of Lincoln, its growth was dependent for the most part upon the city's progress. A brief account of Lincoln's early history will also make clearer the answers to some of the questions arising in the minds of those unfamiliar with such knowledge. Some of these questions are: What was the object of the donors in giving three hundred and twenty-one acres of land in order to have another university in Lincoln when the Nebraska State and the Nebraska Wesleyan universities were already located in the city? Was the Nebraska Christian Missionary Society wise in permitting two educational institutions to be maintained in the same state? Did Lincoln have greater possibilities than Fairfield? Was the board of trustees of Cotner University unduly influenced by the spirit of speculation or was poor judgment used in calculating land values ?

Mr. W. W. Cox, a pioneer of Lancaster county, describes the place where the future city was to be as he saw it in 1861 when he was making his first trip west from Nebraska City. He says, "On the second day of July, 1861, we followed a dim track down—to Lincoln?—no; to Lancaster?—no, but down Salt Creek to the mouth of Oak Creek, where we forded the stream. There was at that time a magnificent grove of honey locust timber on the west side of Salt Creek and just south of Oak Creek; and a little to the south of the foot of the present day O street, at the large bend of

the creek, there were perhaps a hundred majestic elms and cottonwoods, with here and there a hackberry and honey locust. Those lovely groves would now, if they could have remained in their natural grandeur and beauty as we saw them, be of priceless value to the city for a park. \* \* \* It brings peculiar thoughts to mind as we look around us now and consider the changes that twenty-six years have wrought.

One dim track only, crossed the site of the future city from east to west, that had been made by hunters and salt pilgrims, and the one already mentioned running up and down the creek. As we viewed the land upon which now stands this great busy city, we had the exciting pleasure of seeing for the first time a large drove of the beautiful antelope cantering across the prairie about where the government square (now) is."<sup>1</sup>

The first industry of Lincoln possessed a sufficient amount of savoring qualities to have been preserved until the present time, nevertheless it has long since ceased to exist. Mr. Cox tell in a unique way of his experience in the salt industry: "In company with Darwin Peckham (now of Lincoln) we commenced making salt on the 20th day of August, 1861. We pre-empted one of the log cabins and "bached" it during the fall. Salt was very scarce during war times, and was high in price, and of a necessity great numbers of people came to scrape salt. They came from all the settled portions of the territory; from Kansas, Missouri and as far east as central Iowa. \* \* \* Going for salt in those days was like going fishing—it was all in luck. If the weather were perfectly dry, they could get plenty of it, for it could be scraped up by the wagon load, but three minutes rain would end the game. We

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<sup>1</sup>History of Seward County. Nebr, by W. W. Cox. This history was published in 1888. Mr. W. W. Cox was one of the pioneer settlers of Lancaster county and later of Seward county.

have seen a drove of men that came a full hundred miles arrive just in time to see a little rain clear all the salt off the basin in a moment, and they left to hold an empty sack. We found a goodly number there when we arrived and they were holding the empty sack, for it had just rained and the basin was as black as ink. \* \* We immediately built a small furnace, made a sheet-iron salt pan and began boiling salt, and by the time the next drove of pilgrims came we had salt to sell or trade them. \* \* \* When the weather was dry many would scrape more than they could haul home and we would trade for their scrapings at twenty-five cents per hundred and pay in boiled salt at two dollars per hundred. In dry times we would accumulate a mountain of scraped salt, and as soon as the first rain came our scrapings would be worth fifty cents to one dollar per hundred. Pilgrims would grab for it. They brought all manner of provisions to trade for salt—meat, flour, chickens, butter, fruit, potatoes, eggs. \* \* \* A party brought two four-horse wagon loads (five thousand pounds) of flour from Winterset, Iowa, and we made an even exchange of five thousand pounds of salt for it. It was a lively time for hundreds were coming and going continually during the fall.”

Civilization was moving westward. Omaha and Nebraska City were destined not to be the only towns of importance in Nebraska but to have a rival located on Salt Creek. The founding of the city is vividly described by Mr. Cox, who tells of the arrival on July 4, 1862, of “Elder J. M. Young and party consisting of Rev. Peter Schamp, Dr. McKesson, Mr. Warnes, Luke Lavender and Jacob Dawson. They were in search of a suitable location for a colony. They were patriotic and had not forgotten the flag. Dinner was quickly provided and disposed of, the neighbors called in, and we had a celebration that was a feast to the soul. As

the dear old elder talked to us of our blessed flag, and how it had been trailed in the dust by recreant hands and the mighty struggle that was going on to maintain its supremacy, our hearts swelled with emotion as we realized that our country and our all were at that moment trembling in the balance. This was probably the first time that our national flag ever kissed the breezes of Lancaster county and it was an occasion long to be remembered by all the participants.

In the second week in July, and after making a thorough examination of the surrounding country, the party made settlement on the land where Lincoln now stands and dedicated a portion of section twenty-two for a town site and christened it "Lancaster." Lancaster did not grow as more modern towns do. A few settlers began to arrive and settle on the beautiful lands in the vicinity but not many cared to try their hand at building a city just then. Town-building was a slow process in those days so far inland."

Two reasons may be given for this slow growth of Lancaster. First it was still questionable whether the upland prairie was valuable for agriculture or not. All farming was done on the creek bottom. Great fires sweeping across the country would leave the grass roots exposed to the scorching sun of late autumn and the frosts of winter. For the next few years the grass crop would be scanty. People not knowing or understanding the cause, thought the soil not fertile. The second cause is found in the lack of railroads. St. Joseph, Missouri and Ottumwa, Iowa, were the nearest railway terminals. But the bill for the Union Pacific was passed in 1862; and all were awaiting with eagerness the arrival of the first road.

Indeed this was a meager, insignificant beginning for a future capital city. But let us leave the prairie hamlet located near the great salt basin, the goal of hear-

say; leave it amid the vastness of a new country; leave it to unlock nature's storehouse and grow; grow for a quarter of a century and then take our second view.

From this trivial settlement in the wilderness, without trade or developed resources there was built a city whose property was estimated at \$50,000,000 in 1889. There were now four railway systems entering the city. Seventy manufacturing industries were flourishing. Church property was worth a half million. The State Capitol, penitentiary, insane asylum and State University were all located here.

Some of the past accomplishments and future expectations are given by Messrs. Hayes and Cox in their *History of Lincoln*. "The future of Lincoln is fully equal to that of Omaha and it is a possibility, that may yet be realized, that Lincoln will outstrip Omaha on account of commercial superiority. To supply this commercial empire (which had been outlined) there is a perfectly legitimate reason why Lincoln's jobbing trade should grow and it has grown, there being sixty-eight wholesale houses in the city now and four hundred traveling men make Lincoln their home. Lincoln's manufacturing interests require her to grow. There is a call for vast supplies of all ordinary manufactures and the city must grow to keep up with this demand. In keeping with this demand seventy factories are now operated in Lincoln. On this account alone there will be a call for a city larger than Lincoln at the hub of the main railroad system of this splendid territory. Then the railroad interests require a city at this place and those who think Lincoln will stop growing should remember one fact, viz: the railroad system of Nebraska is cast for all time in favor of Lincoln and instead of the city failing, there is reason to believe that on this account alone, reliance may be placed for long continued advancement. The roads have reason to



push the city and they will do it. At the rate the city is now advancing and has gone forward for several years it will contain 125,000 inhabitants before the close of the next decade."

Lincoln had enjoyed a phenomenal growth. But as we read these statements and ponder over this brief sketch we instinctively feel that the hopes of the people of Lincoln were too great for immediate realization. A spirit of too great enthusiasm and hopefulness often leads to speculation. It causes men to misjudge values and reach too far. If this spirit entered into the transactions of the founders of Christian university, to a slight degree but not to a danger point, they were only acting according to the dictates of their environment. The same spirit had played a part in every educational enterprise for twenty-five years. It was the same spirit that prompted the business and real estate men to offer a donation of land to any who would agree to erect a university upon it. Although there were already two universities in their midst, they felt another would increase the population, attract more business and enhance property values. "To found a university seems to have been the highest ambition of many of Nebraska's earliest politicians, and to become the home of a great educational institution, the goal for which nearly all of her earliest towns strove earnestly and well."<sup>1</sup> Not only was speculation a characteristic of Lincoln, but indeed of the entire United States, particularly of the west. The west was new and abounding in possibilities which were visible to all; yet nature requires time to produce a harvest. Wealth cannot be accumulated in a day; the prairie turned into an agricultural garden in a year; nor a city reared in a decade. The west would meet all expectations, but it required more time than men

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<sup>1</sup>"History of Lincoln" by Hayes and Cox.

thought. The inevitable result of this speculation was a crisis and it swept the United States in the nineties. Not only Cotner University and many other like institutions, but thousands of industrial enterprises the country over were drawn into the maelstrom. As one looks back to the eighties and nineties he is apt to criticise for it is much easier to tell how past misfortunes might have been avoided than to tell what course to pursue in the unseen future. History is replete with experiences which should make us wiser than our forefathers.

Attention may now be turned to a discussion of the other two questions. viz: Was the Nebraska Christian Missionary Society wise in permitting two educational institutions in the same state? Did Lincoln have greater possibilities than did Fairfield?

Concerning these points four thoughts may be presented to the reader. Religious bodies at this early period had not realized the necessity for concentrated effort upon one school in each state. For example the Methodists founded Simpson college in 1855, Oreapolis Seminary in 1857, York College in 1880, Central College in 1886. With all these schools, Rev. David Marquette says the tendency was "to increase the number of struggling schools." Later it was seen that none could accomplish the end in view so a "Plan of Unification" was adopted in which it was decided to have "but one institution of college grade;" the "other schools should be parts of, but subordinate to, the central university." The central university was founded in 1888, being called Nebraska Wesleyan, located at Lincoln. There was still the idea of more than one educational institution. The Presbyterians had three schools in the state, viz: Bellevue, Hastings and Omaha Seminary. It is not at all strange, in view of these

facts, that the Christian church considered the proposition of another university when the business men offered them this donation of land.

In the second place it was not intended to withdraw any support from Fairfield Normal and Collegiate Institute. In an address delivered before the 20th annual convention of the Nebraska Missionary Society, R. C. Barrow emphasized this point: "Among the contemplated enterprises looking to the advancement of our religious interests in the state, that will demand the consideration and action of this convention, is that of founding a university at Lincoln. It is believed by a number of brethren of excellent judgment in business matters that the offers made us by real estate owners in Lincoln will enable us to build and sustain a university at that point without expense to the brotherhood. A committee selected by the state board will present the details for your consideration. This enterprise is not intended to supplant, or in any way weaken the moral and financial support now given to the Fairfield Normal and Collegiate Institute, which we should heartily sustain and strengthen to the fullest extent of our ability."<sup>1</sup> Mr. Barrow probably expressed the opinion of many when he indicated that he thought the land donation would "build and sustain a university." Their idea was a land endowment. At this same convention the college committee in its recommendation emphasized the fact that they did not intend to withdraw any financial assistance from Fairfield: "We recommend also that in case any college or system of colleges be projected or established in the near or more remote future within our borders and under the auspices of the Nebraska Christian Mission-

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<sup>1</sup>Minutes of Nebraska Christian Missionary Society in Annual Convention assembled at Fairfield, Nebr., Aug. 30, 1887.

ary Convention, a sensitive regard be had to the moral obligation, financial and otherwise, which is owing to an institution already inaugurated, and that it be understood that all such enterprises command their proportional share of the society's sympathy and support."

We have no desire in any way to discredit Fairfield; yet, it was easily recognized at that early period, that Lincoln had greater commercial possibilities than Fairfield. It had a population of about 40,000 while Fairfield was still in the hundreds. Four railway systems entered the former while the latter was on branch lines. Lincoln was the capitol city and the home of other state institutions. Because of these advantages it naturally attracted the university founders as a more desirable place than Fairfield for a central institution. There was no idea of deserting Fairfield.

The last thought is, that Lincoln was destined to become the educational center of the west. Many conditions made this fact apparent. State institutions always create an educational environment. The phenomenal school growth was pointing in that direction. The first school, known as Stone Seminary, was held in 1866, in the days when Lincoln was called Lancaster. The building was located where the State Journal building now stands; only one room was completed in time for use that year and cloths and carpets were hung up all around to keep out winter's chilly breezes. About thirty pupils with W. H. Merrill as teacher held the first session of the first common school in Lincoln. The second session is described by Messrs. Hayes and Cox in their "History of Lincoln," "Early in 1867 Mrs. Merrill taught a term in Stone Seminary. She was a lady of a good academic education and could sing well besides. The directors were anxious to find a teacher and urged Mrs. Merrill to take the school. She said it

was impossible as she had a baby only about a year old. The directors told her to take it to school with her and to this arrangement she finally consented. So Mrs. Merrill labored with the youth of Lancaster with a baby in her arms part of the time. She lived in one end of the building and John Montieth had a shoe shop in another part." Stone Seminary was to have a sad end as an educational institution. During the same year it caught fire as a result of a misconstructured flue and burned.

This simple beginning seemed very far removed from a great educational center, but when one observes the system twenty-two years later, he notes a very different situation. The first State University building was erected in 1871 costing \$139,000. By 1889 a student body of five hundred was enrolled. A chemical laboratory costing \$35,000 had been recently built and "has attracted the attention of educators all over the country."<sup>1</sup> The other buildings, "Memorial Hall" and "Industrial Hall" costing \$20,000 and \$50,000 respectively were a credit to our state. Nebraska Wesleyan had just opened its doors and gave promise of future greatness. The common and high school system were growing and fairly satisfactory. No city in the west could point to equal educational facilities. This was a cognizable fact. The Christian church, when given an opportunity to be a part of this educational center, willingly accepted.

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<sup>1</sup>C. H. Gere in Cox's History of Seward County, pp. 217.

## CHAPTER VII

### The Promoters and Their Plan

As has already been called to the attention of our reader, the task of establishing and maintaining a university was delegated to a Board of Trustees. The following men were its first members :

Porter Hedge, Lincoln	J. Z. Broscoe, Lincoln
C. R. Van Duyn, Lincoln	Ira Titus, Fairfield
W. P. Aylsworth, Fairfield	E. T. Gadd, Omaha
Alvin Saunders, Lincoln	C. J. Hale, Craig
C. C. Munson, Lincoln	John T. Smith, Nebr. City
W. T. Newcomb, Fairfield	Thomas Wiles, Plattsmouth

The names of many of these men are familiar to members of the Christian church.

There are four men to whom special credit should be given for their unstinted, untiring efforts in behalf of Christian University. These four are J. Z. Briscoe, who was chairman of the Board of Trustees, Porter Hedge, secretary ; C. R. Van Duyn, treasurer, and C. C. Munson. They did not seek personal power or reputation but in a quiet, unselfish, unassuming manner undertook the task of establishing an institution which should stand as a memorial dedicated to Christian education.

The greater part of the actual work of getting the university under way was done by the executive committee consisting of those members of the Trustees who were residents of Lincoln ; its actions, however, being ratified by the Board of Trustees when the latter met in regular session. The executive committee met in weekly, often in daily, consultation.

Mr. J. Z. Briscoe presided over the first meeting of the university committee and also the last, which met

October 15, 1896. For his services during these nine years, acting as chairman and performing not only the duties incumbent upon this office but also the innumerable other tasks which of necessity fell to one in such a position, Mr. Briscoe deserves the greatest credit and praise. He was the real general of the



J. Z. Briscoe

movement. His courage and optimism, when others grew discouraged; his keen judgment, upon which all relied, and his high Christian motives, all were worthy of emulation.

Another person always ready to give assistance to any worthy cause was Porter Hedge. The magnanimous spirit of this man prompted him to take from his business, the time necessary to act as secretary of the Board of Trustees. The record of the proceedings

of all its meetings is found in his handwriting. Mr. Hedge was a man of fine mental balance. He thought deliberately, but when he had formed an opinion he was very firm in his conviction. He was a tender, kind hearted man, always anxious to forward the cause of Christian education.

Mr. C. R. Van Duyn, the treasurer, was a quiet, unassuming man. All of the deeds, mortgages and notes were executed by him and he handled the entire clerical business in a very efficient manner. Mr. Van Duyn always tried to keep away from the "public eye," but was a man loved and admired by all who knew him. The First Christian church of Lincoln always numbered him among its most earnest and faithful members.

Mr. C. C. Munson was an ever-ready member of the board. His colleagues often spoke of him as "Peter" because of this characteristic. Mr. Munson was engaged in the lumber business in Lincoln at the time Christian University was established and with his knowledge of building materials and prices he gave great assistance to the enterprise.<sup>1</sup>

The above named men formed the executive committee. The remaining members of the Board of Trus-

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<sup>1</sup>Three of the four chief promoters of Cotner are still living. Mr. J. Z. Briscoe has a comfortable home in Bethany, in the shadow of the university which he helped to build. Porter Hedge is no longer numbered among the living. One Saturday evening he closed his office with every intention of returning on Monday morning. But shortly after he had retired he made a slight noise which awakened his wife. In response to her inquiry he said "I'll be better soon" and in just a few moments a life had flitted away. Mr. C. R. Van Duyn and wife are now located in that beautiful western city, Eugene, Ore. Here in peace and contentment they will probably live until the close of their useful lives. Mr. C. C. Munson is living in Denver where he is engaged in the advertising business. Mr. and Mrs. Munson bid fair to celebrate their golden wedding in 1918.



tees also deserve creditable mention. John T. Smith was one of the pioneer preachers and evangelists of the state. W. T. Newcomb and Ira Titus, residents of Fairfield, were made members of the board that some of the hostile feeling existing between the two schools might thus be allayed, but they opposed in numerous and various ways the plans and interests of the new school. C. J. Hale and Thomas Wiles were faithful members from the northeastern part of the state. E. T. Gadd, a member from Omaha, was one of the best and most widely known real estate men of the entire west. Ex-Governor Saunders, although a busy, popular man, was one of the most zealous workers in behalf of Christian University during its early years. W. P. Aylsworth was one of the deliberate members of the board, whose counsel was often of great value. All of the trustees were members of the Christian church, very anxious to forward the educational interests of their denomination, willing to sacrifice much of their time for this cause, none of them ever receiving a salary. Each member of the board was elected for a term of three years. Messrs. Briscoe, Hedge and Van Duyn were the only ones, however, who served in that capacity during the entire nine years.

Attention may now be turned from the men, to the plan of the university itself. No time was lost in the

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Mr. Munson has a reputation as poet. The following was written by him describing the state of his adoption:

#### COLORADO

Calling to the peoples of every clime  
Onward to valleys and scenes sublime,  
Lands and mines await their coming,  
On every hand success is humming—  
Rivers and lakes from melting snow  
Are ready to water the seeds they sow;  
Down in the mines await silver and gold,  
O, Colorado, thy wealth is untold.

discussion of methods, for it was generally understood that the same plan would be used as had been followed in many other like efforts, namely, to provide for the erection and maintenance of the university by the sale of lots. As is usually the case in retrospection, one is able to see places in which improvement might have been made. This is possible in a review of any enterprise. All would admit that the lots must be sold in order that homes might be erected near the campus. Someone might suggest only the sale of alternate lots, but this would have had a retarding tendency, for it would have scattered the town, making practically impossible such city improvements as sidewalks and water and sewerage systems. It is not the sale of lots which the review of the past questions, but the use of all the money derived therefrom. Instead of appropriating all of the money in the erection of the building it seems it would have been wiser to have reserved a part for an endowment. The money for building purposes could have been secured by subscriptions from those in most prosperous conditions. Then, when the critical years came, a permanent source of income would have been available. Some feel that the money for a building could have been raised at that time while others say it would have been impossible. It is easier, however to look backward than forward. As the promoters looked backward they saw only the plan of lot sales as the one universally used in similar educational movements. As immediate examples, they had the cases of Doane, Hastings and Bellevue colleges and Nebraska Wesleyan University. The policy had even been used in the erection of the state capitol and other state buildings.

Mr. E. T. Gadd of Omaha was now employed by the Board of Trustees to act as the university real estate agent. A man with a greater reputation in his

line could not have been found in the west. The remuneration to us today might seem excessive but a man of his ability could not be secured for less. They were to give 10% of all sales made, his work beginning in April, 1888. The lowest price at which any lot was offered was \$100, and this was for lots situated on the outskirts of the new town. The more desirable lots near the campus were listed at from \$250 to \$400. The following is a copy of the outside cover of the first price list:

AUGUST  
PRICE LIST  
BETHANY -:- HEIGHTS

Lots 50x140  
Streets 60, 70 and 100 Feet  
Alleys 20 Feet

*Terms*--One-fourth cash, balance at 8 per cent interest or will arrange with purchaser. Prices will be advanced 20% Sept. 1, 1888.

For full particulars call on or  
address

E. T. GADD & SON  
Sole Agents

The first land was sold the day the State Missionary Society came in a body to Bethany Heights to assist in laying the corner stone. Lots were sold at auction, Col. C. C. Pace, the city's most noted auctioneer,

was in charge. The object in selling the lots in this way was two fold; first, to establish a price; and second to give them a "start" on their land sale propaganda. Thirty-nine lots were disposed of during the day, the total receipts amounting to \$8,315, or an average of \$213.20 per lot.<sup>1</sup> This was a good price, yet some felt they should have sold for more.

Land sales were in harmony with the spirit of western speculation. Everything started with a boom. Prices were advanced every few months in order to encourage immediate purchase, and many lots were sold. There were two distinct classes of purchasers; members of the Christian church, buying because of their desire to advance the cause of the church and the university, and others buying for the purpose of speculation. Many purchasers gave their personal notes. Later when the crisis wave of the '90's had finished its sweep across the entire country; when the speculative bubble had burst, and Lincoln and vicinity were returning to normal conditions, investors found it difficult, and in cases impossible, to meet payments. Some became bitter enemies of the school, and were ready to act or speak in such manner as to help bring the school into severe financial straits.

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<sup>1</sup>The number who made final settlement for lots only took twenty-seven at \$5,590.

Proceedings of 22nd Annual Christian Missionary Convention, pp. 50.

## CHAPTER VIII

### The Realization of the Dream

The first step to be taken by the Board of Trustees for the erection of the university building, was the securing of a competent architect, who should have general supervision over the entire work of constructing the building. Propositions to this effect were submitted by William Gray and O. H. Placey. After a consideration of the plans, it was decided that the more suitable one for a university building was that of Mr. Placey. He was therefore employed and received one thousand dollars for his services.

It was decided to begin the foundation before the first day of May, 1888. A year had not yet elapsed since July previous, in which J. Z. Briscoe, as chairman of the Nebraska Christian Missionary Society, had appointed a committee, with C. C. Munson as chairman, to consider propositions for locating a Christian University in Lincoln. In August of that same year the annual convention of the Missionary Society had ratified the movement and appointed the committee of action; the gift of the donors had been accepted; articles of incorporation had been drawn; the village had been laid out and an architect employed. All was therefore in readiness for the foundation. Four contractors presented bids for the work. That of Thomas H. H. and Company for \$11,572 was accepted. The next step was the erection of the superstructure. The contract was awarded to Chidister and Barras for \$40,000; nine bids having been presented, ranging from \$41,000 to \$52,000. The total cost of the entire structure, when completed was \$85,258.75.

The basement and foundation were constructed of

first class stone with a wide cement base; the upper part of the building, consisting of four stories, was of Milwaukee pressed brick trimmed with red sandstone. The roof was of slate and above it towered the lofty spire reaching one hundred and thirty-five feet above the ground. The building contains thirty-two class rooms, seven office rooms for the president and professors; a chapel having a seating capacity, with the gallery, of five hundred; a reference library and large study room and spacious halls and stairways.

As one views the building, situated on a rise of ground one hundred and fifty feet above the city, he is attracted by its beauty; architecturally it has no superior in the state. About \$3,000 and much labor were expended in making the twenty-acre campus beautiful. Between six and eight hundred trees were purchased from ex-Governor Furnas for the ornamentation of the campus. Mr. D. C. Mosher, a landscape gardener, was employed for one year at \$1200 to plan and superintend the work of beautifying the university grounds. The campus was artistically divided into four parts by winding driveways and walks running from each corner of the campus to the building. Skirting the campus and on either side of the driveways were set ash, hackberry, catalpas, locust and other trees. Triangular clumps of spruce were beautifully arranged about the terrace. As a result of their planning and work posterity has enjoyed a beautiful campus.

The Trustees had secured the north half of block thirty-one for a dormitory site on which was now erected a structure costing \$4,373.02 and containing sixteen rooms to be rented to ladies exclusively. Table board has always been furnished to both men and women at prices ranging from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per week.

In order to attract residents to Bethany, the trus-

tees decided to erect in various parts of the town, thirteen dwelling houses at a total cost of \$17,645. All of those north of where the Interurban Street Railway is now located, have since been moved away. In the east part, two still remain, the old Demarest home and the B. F. Austin property. To the southeast, one is now owned by William Shuck. In south Bethany are the homes of J. J. Armstrong and James Tewksbury. Just west of the campus is one more, which is the home of W. E. Strain. The thirteen houses, together with ten more erected by J. Z. Briscoe, made a good start for the new town.

The promoters were not satisfied with laying out the new town, the erection of the residence houses and the completion of the new university building. Their dream was not realized until school was actually begun.

The trustees were undecided as to the advisability of opening the school in the fall of 1889. Invitations were sent to several of the prominent ministers of the state to meet with them in their regular session of April 16, 1889. After a deliberate discussion this motion was made by W. P. Ayworth and unanimously accepted: "Resolved that it is the sense of this meeting that we make a beginning of our school this fall, making such provision for instructors and courses of study as circumstances may demand."<sup>1</sup> A prospectus was immediately prepared and circulated extensively. An announcement card was also sent out in the following form:

CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY --:- BETHANY HEIGHTS

The First Session of this new University begins Tuesday, Oct. 1. 1889. By this time the needed space in the university building for chapel and recitation

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<sup>1</sup>Record Book of Board Proceedings, pp. 73.

rooms will be ready; other members of the faculty will be chosen and rooms and boarding accommodations will be provided. The street car line is extended toward the university and preparations are being made to have everything ready for the reception of students. For circulars, information, etc., address,

J. Z. BRISCOE, Pres. of Board, or  
PORTER HEDGE, Sec. of Board.

Thus was the announcement made of the day which had been ardently wished for by those who had been instrumental in the creation of the new university. Their aim was clearly set forth in the prospectus. "Christian University, Lincoln, Nebraska. is the outgrowth of a desire on the part of members of the Christian church to found there an institution of learning which should be second to none in the west in ability to confer a thorough and liberal culture and whose surroundings should be distinctly of a moral and religious nature. It is their aim to offer the very best facilities for the study of the Bible and to give every possible advantage for young men desiring to study for the Christian ministry."

It was the wish of all to make the Bible the keynote of learning in their new university. The magnanimous spirit of J. Z. Briscoe prompted him to give \$25,000 for the endowment of a Bible chair. This gift was gladly accepted by the trustees as a great aid toward the realization of their original purpose. Mr. Briscoe offered this endowment in three forms from which the trustees should choose, viz: in Lincoln real estate, in notes amounting to \$25,000 with good security and bearing 7% interest or sixty-five Bethany lots. The Bethany lots were chosen. The lots could be sold but the proceeds were to be placed in an endowment fund of which only the interest could be used. In appreciation of this generous gift, the department supported

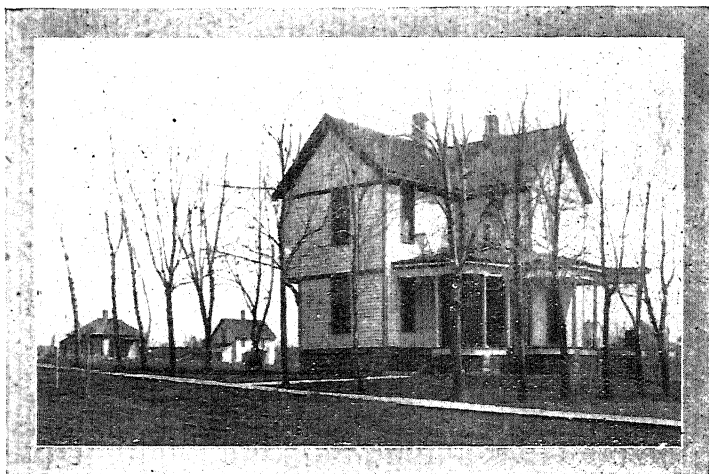


by it, was to be known as the "Briscoe Bible Chair." This was a noble act on the part of Mr. Briscoe. Perhaps no man had a stronger desire to assist the youth of Nebraska in their quest for truth than he. Firm and outspoken in his opposition to infidelity, he was very anxious to foster true religion. Mr. Briscoe was given the privilege of naming the head of the department during his life. At death this right was to be granted to his wife or to his daughter, Miss Florence Briscoe. During the entire existence of the Briscoe Bible Chair it was ably occupied by Dr. W. P. Aylsworth.

During the first few years the new institution laid great emphasis upon the Bible as the greatest of text books. This was entirely natural. Among all people religious controversy was very intense. The promoters of the small college felt that the state schools and large institutions were places where infidelity was taught and encouraged. It was an epoch of religious debate and denominationalism. On the other hand, it was a period when some openly upheld infidelity. People were roughly divided into two factions, the religious and non-religious. The former upheld the small college, the latter the state institutions. The small college and its religious following charged the state school with infidelity, while they on their part were criticized for their lack of intellectuality, their small laboratories and libraries.

In 1893, Porter Hedge said, "Education in secular schools has given us few persons thoroughly consecrated to the work of the church, but rather has led them away from this work." A year later a similar idea was expressed by President Dungan: "Some way it has gotten into the minds of many persons that Cotner University is a kind of seminary whose ability is exhausted in preparing students for the State Univer-

sity. We ask such persons to compare the curriculums of Cotner and that of the State University. If they will, they will find that in literature and science they differ but little from that institution. Professor Harper, president of the University of Chicago, accepts our graduates upon the same basis as those graduated from the State University."



Where School Began

Christian University would have been impossible without this spirit of religious zeal. Otherwise students would have attended the State University because of its better equipment and its freedom from tuition. In fact, if one removes the religious factor, the denominational college has little reason for existence. The state school to-day is not pronounced in its opposition to the church, nor do those who hold religious beliefs consider it the home of infidelity.

Upon Tuesday, September 30, 1888, thirty young

people buoyant with anticipation, cast a final look of scorn upon ignorance and turned in search of the hidden treasures of knowledge. The university building was not completed until the new year, but school was begun in one of the residence houses built by the trustees, now known as the old "Demarest home." Mr. Arthur Munson was the first young man to register, while Miss Alice Gadd (now Mrs. A. D. Harmon) has the distinction of being the first young lady student.

The day of greatest anticipation is the one upon which youth first crosses the threshold of college; the four years spent therein are among the happiest of life; the day of graduation among the saddest and loneliest; for then one bids farewell to youth, to undertake the tasks of men in a great, busy world. Goodbye is reverently spoken to college classmates and friends; the doors of the college to you are closed. But upon entrance, one is only dreaming the dreams of youth, not seeing the visions of men. The little band of students began their work. But as a house is not merely four square walls, so a university is not simply buildings, laboratories and libraries. It is teachers and students as well.

## CHAPTER IX

### Bennett Academy and Kindred Ventures

The greatness of the dream of the founders of Christian University is indicated by the fact that they were "desirous of establishing one or more educational institutions."<sup>1</sup> No attempt was ever made by them, however, to establish a second college or university; but an academy was maintained at Bennett, Nebraska, and attempts were made to secure several other buildings for similar school purposes.

Bennett was a village of a few hundred inhabitants, located eighteen miles southwest of Lincoln, where Prof. F. W. Scott owned and managed a school known as Union Seminary. The Board of Trustees, anxious to establish academies as "feeders" for the central university, purchased this property, consisting of the building all furnished for school purposes, and a five-acre tract of land. The amount paid for the property was \$2,275 in Bethany real estate, and \$108.33 in cash; the new owners to receive the benefit of outstanding pledges to the amount of \$1100.

The name of the school was changed to Bennett Academy. In the fall of 1890, it began its career in rather an unpropitious manner, having four teachers and four students.<sup>2</sup> Professor George E. Jones of Kent, Iowa, became the principal and Miss Ella Dungan of Des Moines, the assistant; the salaries were \$800 and \$450 respectively. Before the end of the year Miss Dungan was succeeded by Miss Kathleen Hearn, as assistant principal. Miss Florence Baker was the instructor in music and Miss Lulu Murphy instructor in

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<sup>1</sup>Articles of Incorporation filed in County Clerk's office April 12 1888.

<sup>2</sup>Number of students: First year, 26; second year, 63; third year, 52; fourth year, 52; fifth year, 79

art. The new school soon gained the confidence and respect of the community and by the end of the first year twenty-six were enrolled in all departments. That there was an increasing interest and appreciation of the efficient work done, was made manifest by the fact that sixty-three students were enrolled during the second year.

Bennett Academy made substantial progress until the fifth year, when the Nebraska Christian Educational Board was forced, by stringent financial circumstances, to withdraw its support. Professor Jones was the only member of the original faculty then remaining, being assisted by E. D. Harris and two young men, E. J. Thomson and G. H. Knox. A decrease in attendance might have been expected during the year, but the interest in the newly introduced commercial course offset any depreciation and gave the school a larger student body than it had had in any preceeding year. The sixth, and last year of the Academy was begun with Mr. Paul Goss as principal. His work continued for only ten weeks. With his resignation the history of Bennett Academy comes to an end. The existence of the Academy was brief, but the character of the work done was creditable. Sixteen individuals count themselves alumni<sup>1</sup> of this school that now lives only in memory.

It is interesting to read in the proceedings of the Trustees, proposals of two similar ventures. The records for April 6, 1891, say, "Rev. Mr. Hilton of Crete,

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<sup>1</sup>Alumni of Bennett Academy

Class of '93—Geo. W. Eggleston, Jr., Ella Hartley, Lulu Hiatt, Howard M. McPherson, Anna Moore, A. D. Southwick.

Class of '94—Ella Hall, Remona Harper, Louise Hartzell, Tyre Jones, Ora Seely, Emma Smith.

Class of '95—L. V. Flowers, Emmet J. Thomson, Grace Honor, Della Smith.

was present and presented the matter of establishing a school at Bartley, Red Willow county, Nebraska, where a foundation worth \$12,000 is already in, and a plan which could be completed for \$15,000, with seven hundred and fifty acres of land promised as a donation. No action taken."<sup>1</sup> The minutes for September 3, 1891, refer to the second proposed venture: "J. Z. Briscoe was appointed to examine into the matter of the school at Republican City and decide whether or not it would be well to purchase it."<sup>2</sup> No further record regarding these ventures is to be found. Time has dimmed the memory of the only men remaining who would in any wise be capable of recalling the why and wherefore of these past events. Thus we are left to wonder or conjecture as to the reason for their failure.

During this buoyant period of progress another plan that was contemplated, but never realized, was the establishment of a law college.<sup>3</sup> This would undoubtedly have been too great an undertaking, involving too enormous an expense, for the young university.

One of the hopes that was realized, however, was the establishment of a medical college. A committee from the Nebraska Eclectic Medical Society met with the Board of Trustees May 27, 1889, to discuss the feasibility of establishing a medical department in Christian University. The committee consisted of Doctors W. S. Latta and R. L. Bentley. It was not until the following March, however, that definite action was taken. A number of the leading Lincoln doctors,<sup>4</sup> had

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<sup>1</sup>Record Book of Board Proceedings pp. 223.

<sup>2</sup>Record Book of Board Proceedings, pp. 266.

<sup>3</sup>Record Book of Board Proceedings, pp. 222.

<sup>4</sup>W. S. Latta, R. L. Bentley, J. B. Keys, A. I. Root, Wm. McIntyre, J. H. Woodward.

formulated a plan which was at this time presented to the trustees of the university. The essential points of their plan were as follows:

1. That the Medical College should be a department of Christian University.

2. That the Medical department should be self-sustaining.

3. The trustees should provide suitable rooms fully equipped for medical work.

4. The university trustees should be given the privilege of removing any professor and should have the authority to elect a successor upon the nomination of the Medical College faculty.

This plan was accepted, and the Medical School was opened in the fall of 1890, in rooms on the fourth floor of the university building. A few years later, having outgrown its original home, the Medical College was moved to Lincoln. At the close of the year 1911 its name was changed from "Lincoln Medical College of Cotner University" to "Cotner University Medical College." At the present time there is practically no affiliation between the Medical College and Cotner University, the separation taking place in 1913.

During its early years the Medical College was handicapped because it was an eclectic institution. This was something new to the western medical world and men of the old school opposed it. It was impossible to fill all positions on the faculty with men holding the new view. This caused more or less friction. Jealousy among the medical men has often constituted a disturbing influence. The school has had many "ups and downs," but with all its difficulties, many men of unquestionable character and distinction in the medical world, give this institution credit for making them what they are.

Many changes have been made in length of time required for graduation from the medical school. At the beginning it consisted of a three year course of six months each. The following year the term was increased to seven months, instead of six. Another change was made in 1896, when it became a four year course of six months each. Still there seemed to be need of more time and in 1900 the school year was extended to seven months. At present the professional degree is given only upon the completion of satisfactory work for four years of eight months each.

The Alumni Association of the Medical College numbers two hundred and forty-nine members. It can boast of having practicing physicians in nineteen states of the union, one in the United States navy,<sup>1</sup> and three in India<sup>2</sup>. The school has just reason to be proud of the record its graduates are making.

The close relationship between the medical and dental professions, and the fact that dentistry is really a part of the medical and surgical course, led to the establishment of the Lincoln Dental College of Cotner University. This new department was initiated in September, 1899. The prime instigators of the new movement were W. Clyde Davis, M. D., D. D. S., dean of the new college; Clifford R. Teft, M. D., secretary, and H. A. Shannon, D. D. S., president of the executive board. Each of these men also filled a prominent place in the teaching staff.

The length of time required for graduation was the same as that for graduation from the Medical College. The first graduate exercises were held in 1901. The first graduate was a Japanese by the name of Kuski

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<sup>1</sup>Sanky Bacon, '05.

<sup>2</sup>Dr. C. C. Drummond, '96, Harda, India; Dr. Howard R. Murphy, '12, Midnapore, India; Dr. Bertha Mangon Thomson, '13, Mahoba, India.



Kumamoto. After a short period the relationship of the Dental College with Cotner University was ended, the Dental College becoming affiliated with the State University. It is known to-day as the Lincoln Dental College.

Many are the departments of education into which Cotner has gone, her ventures have been many, her real failures few.

## CHAPTER X

### A Friend and a New Name

We cannot go further with our history without telling you, kind reader, of the name the university is proud to wear, a name that has been echoed and re-echoed over many an athletic field, one that many a student speaks with pride, a name that has touched the world—the name, *Cotner*. Her graduates are found in the sunny south, and in the pine clad hills of the north; upon New England's rugged shore, and on the western slope where rolls the Oregon; and even more, for their voices speak from across the sea.

"A friend in need is a friend indeed." One of the quiet, reserved men, who was a member of the Board of Trustees, who could be counted upon in times of distress, was Samuel Cotner<sup>1</sup> of Omaha. It is a peculiar coincidence that the two greatest friends of this university were relatives. J. Z. Briscoe, who gave time, thought and money to the institution during its creative stage, was ably seconded in the later period by Samuel Cotner, his brother-in-law.

There are many ways of doing good in the world. Some are eloquent, speaking from pulpit or platform; some are sympathetic, radiating kindness and cheer, while others give of their wealth. The last way was used by Mr. Cotner in assisting Nebraska Christian University.

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<sup>1</sup>Samuel Cotner was the youngest of a family of thirteen children, eleven boys and two girls. His mother died when he was three years old and his father seven years later. His education was secured in the common schools. Upon leaving Indiana in 1866, Mr. Cotner came to Nebraska, settling in Douglas county where he lived until his death. He was widely known in Nebraska business circles. Mr. Cotner was at one time president of

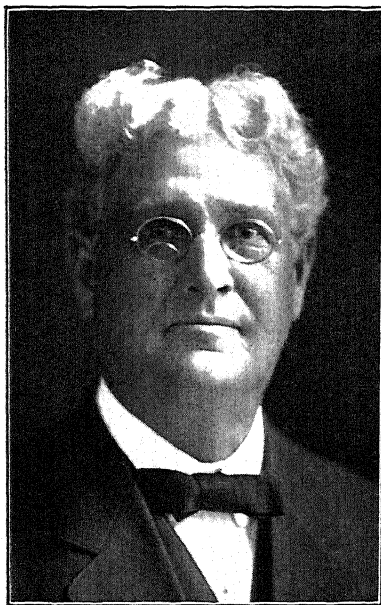
Not long after its beginning financial pressure began to weigh upon the trustees of Cotner University. Adjoining the land owned by the university was a tract of fifty-five acres of land, which it was felt would be of great value, if it could be secured. Samuel Cotner now proved himself a real friend to the university. Mrs. Cotner tells how they decided to purchase this tract of land and give it to the university. "You know Mr. Cotner was a very quiet, unassuming man. He never occupied any public place in life but was much interested in state affairs always questioning right and wrong. When the State University was graduating infidels and our people were aroused for the safety of their sons and daughters, and were striving to complete and put on a permanent basis our own university, Mr. Cotner took up the matter with me. (We never did things alone, one always helped the other.) In the course of our conversation he said, there is a tract of fifty-five acres near the university; if they could buy it, it would help them out. I said, I wish we could buy it and give it to them. He replied, if you like we will do so, and we at once began to plan toward that end. I cannot write of these plans and the pleasure we took in them."<sup>1</sup>

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one of the South Omaha banks and was engaged extensively in the live stock commission business. At the time of his death he was general agent of the Banker's Life Insurance Company of Lincoln. The marriage of Mr. Cotner and Miss Sarah Briscoe took place at Burnettsville, Indiana, October 11, 1861. Miss Briscoe was at that time a teacher in the Burnettsville Normal School. Mrs. Cotner was a great counsel and co-worker with Mr. Cotner in all his educational and business undertakings. Their golden wedding anniversary was celebrated on October 11, 1911. Mr. Cotner was born at Logansport, Ind., June 2, 1842, and died at the same place April 5, 1912. Mr. Cotner had gone to Logansport to visit his aged sister. While his death was sudden and unexpected, it is a joy to know that he had filled out the limits of a ripe age; that his life had been useful and honorable.

<sup>1</sup>Personal letter from Mrs. Cotner of Jan. 15, 1915.

This tract of land was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Cotner for \$12,000 and given to the University. It was a noble gift, coming from generous hearts. It was just what the new, struggling school needed. Her resources were becoming almost exhausted, for the expense of building and equipping such a big enter-



Samuel Cotner

prise was enormous. The records of the university show this resolution as being passed April 28, 1890: "Inasmuch as Brother and Sister Samuel Cotner of Omaha have signified their intention to aid the university to the extent of \$12,000 in the purchase of property, which shall be worth to the university about \$40,000, be it resolved by the executive committee of

the board now in session that the name Cotner University be tendered to them; the same to be published as soon as they shall indicate their acceptance of the name 'Cotner University' and their willingness to comply with the required conditions. This resolution contemplates that the first catalogue of the institution, to be issued in a few weeks, shall bear the name Cotner University."<sup>1</sup> This motion was unanimously adopted. Thus, the institution begun as Nebraska Christian University obtained a new friend and a new name. Since that time the school has always been known as Cotner.

Mr. Cotner gave to the university fifty-five acres of land, almost one-sixth as much as the original donation. It was located in what is now South Bethany. The camp ground, where the Nebraska Christian Missionary Society often holds its yearly meeting, is on one corner of it. The trustees estimated the land worth \$40,000 to them. It was all the more valuable because it was given at an opportune time. The sale of lots was becoming quite difficult and this addition of land gave new impetus to the whole project.

Mr. Cotner was always keenly interested in educational affairs. Just after coming to Nebraska he taught school on the site now occupied by Bellevue College. In these early days he was one of the most ardent of those who fought for more thorough training and for the development of a higher system of education. By his gift to Cotner he was able to carry out a life long desire. During the hard times of the nineties his fortune was swept away, preventing him from giving to the school the further aid he had planned, but his interests and sympathy grew keener as the years passed.

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<sup>1</sup>Record book of Board Proceedings, pp. 162.

Mrs. Cotner was equally desirous of assisting the cause of Christian education and shared with Mr. Cotner the joy which comes as a result of giving. Since his death Mrs. Cotner has given to the trustees \$500 to apply on the endowment fund of Cotner University. This was a part of the money received from a small insurance policy on Mr. Cotner's life. Mrs. Cotner now resides in Omaha, Nebraska, and whenever she is in Lincoln she never fails to make a visit to Cotner University.

## CHAPTER XI

### The Crisis

Even though the strictest economy is practiced by denominational schools, years lapse into quarter and half centuries, and often a new century dawns before they are properly endowed and financial struggles cease. The financial history of every college, fostered by religion is the presentation of a like story of failures and successes. Cotner's story is no exception to this general rule.

While Cotner was still in its youth, real anxiety was shown as to the financial outcome of the movement. In order to understand clearly the crisis which almost wrecked the school in its eighth year, it is necessary to trace the financial history from the beginning of the school.

The source of all income for the support of the school was derived from the sale of land. No effort was made to secure cash donations. All money received from land sales was placed in the general fund and used for building and other purposes. No land or money was reserved primarily for an endowment. The original donation of land amounted to three hundred and twenty-one acres and eighteen lots. The lots being located in different parts of Lincoln. This total included a donation of ten acres from Charles M. Leighton. Before it was finally deeded to the trustees of Cotner University he offered to sell them, one hundred and fifty lots of the usual size, and five lots of one acre each, at the price of 12,400, provided the Trustees would cancel his original donation of ten acres. This was considered a good proposition by the Board and

was accepted. The Leighton addition lay two blocks north and three blocks west of the northwest corner of the campus. The Trustees also purchased of E. T. Gadd for \$3525 twenty-three and one-half lots in Townsend and Gadd addition. This land was located between the Leighton addition and the rest of the university property. In the spring of 1889 a generous gift of fifty-five acres was received from Samuel Cotner. The total amount of land donated to, and purchased by, the Trustees of Cotner University was three hundred and eighty acres, and eighteen lots in Lincoln and twenty-three and one-half lots in Bethany. This acreage did not include the sixty-five lots given to them by J. Z. Briscoe for the maintenance of the Bible Chair in the university. The proceeds from the sale of these lots, however, were not to be placed in the general fund but were to be reserved as an endowment for the Briscoe Bible Chair.

During the first three years a lack of money did not retard the progress of Cotner University. From the beginning to August 26, 1890, one hundred and eighty-eight and one-half acres of Bethany real estate had been sold for \$100,295. "Of the original donation of land to the Board for the location of a university we have remaining one hundred thirty-two and one-half acres and eighteen suburban lots."<sup>1</sup> From the Leighton addition, property had been sold to the amount of \$29,325. According to the listed price there still remained unsold \$3,475 worth of lots. This gave them a net profit on the Leighton transaction of \$16,925, besides the unsold lots. From the Gadd purchase, there had been lots sold to the amount of \$1,125.

The total expenditures for the year 1889 were \$73,729.99. A year later they had increased to

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<sup>1</sup>Proceedings of 23rd annual Christian Missionary convention, pp. 12.



\$93,373.95. In this expense was included the cost of the building and its furnishings, together with the cost of maintaining the school for the first year. In addition to the above amount a dormitory had been erected at a cost of \$4,373.02 and thirteen dwelling houses costing \$17,645.42. There was a mortgage of \$13,600 placed upon these houses and the lots which they occupied. In noting the assets and liabilities for the first years one readily discerns the greater balance to be upon the side of the assets. All bills contracted (except the mortgages upon the thirteen houses) for the building, campus, dormitory, etc., were paid in full. There were no outstanding obligations unpaid. This great university was dedicated free from all debt. Sufficient land had been sold to meet all expenditures; the only handicap lay in the fact that all were not cash sales. The terms upon which lots were sold were "one-fourth cash, the balance at eight per cent interest or will arrange with the purchaser." As has already been said, all money was secured from the sale of land. Lots had been sold in large numbers. Payments were made in bankable notes for about three-fourths of this total sum or in other words, three-fourths of the returns from land sales were in notes. Of course the amount of cash received was not sufficient to pay the obligations of the university so these personal notes were sold, but before anyone would purchase them, they were personally endorsed by the members of the Board of Trustees and by the finance committee, consisting of J. Z. Briscoe, C. C. Munson, C. R. Van Duyn and Porter Hedge. Mr. Hedge says, "The local members of the Board, or a majority of them, have endorsed all notes negotiated by the University Board in order to make them saleable and have cast in their fortune with the fortune of the university, to rise or fall with

it. We ask you for your sympathy and support and we will have no fear of the results."

In 1891, anxiety was beginning to show itself, because the purchasers of lots were not meeting their payments. By 1892, real alarm was manifested and a special meeting of the University Board was called to devise the best plan for meeting the existing financial pressure. At this meeting, Professor Aylsworth proposed to do something "substantial."<sup>1</sup> President Dungan offered to be one of fifty persons to give \$1000 each toward relieving the financial stress of the university. C. B. Newnan, pastor of the First Christian Church of Lincoln, and W. P. Aylsworth agreed to do the same. This was the first time the suggestion of taking pledges had been made. The attempt, however, was doomed to failure.

The situation looked very discouraging for the university. The plan of the founders rested wholly upon the returns from land sales. When the buyers could not pay because of hard times it seemed that the plan was unsuccessful. The purchasers of the lots were really the builders of the university and they could not meet their obligations. The next question was, would those who endorsed their notes be able to meet the obligation; if not the university must go. The personal property belonging to the men who had endorsed these notes was now in danger. They could have avoided this personal risk by mortgaging the university but rather than encumber it, they assumed the risk.

As a last resort in the attempt to better conditions, it was decided to exchange Bethany lots for farms upon which there were some improvements. The Trustees were to "take land with incumbrance, provided, the purchaser will take property enough to give

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<sup>1</sup>Record book of Board Proceedings, pp. 284.

a mortgage back to the Board of the same amount as that assumed by the Board on the land purchased.”<sup>1</sup> The farms were to be rented for one-third of the crop, delivered at the market. Ultimately they hoped to dispose of the land at a fair profit, having disposed of their town lots in the transaction. Five per cent commission was given to J. Z. Briscoe for making the exchange of property. This plan involved the Board in an extensive real estate business. By 1893 the estimated value of their farm equity was \$37,000. Farm property, however, proved to be no better asset than Bethany lots had been. The mortgages upon farms, which had been assumed, must be paid. By this time the indebtedness of the university had reached \$38,755.37. They were now desirous of selling the farms and meeting their obligations, but were unable to do so because of the “hard times” of the nineties.

The financial embarrassment became more intense. The Board of Trustees held personal notes amounting to \$25,000, but considered \$9,000 of it as worthless paper. Collections were very difficult, sales were impossible and yet obligations must be met. In October, 1893, the indebtedness was \$50,000.- To meet this demand the Board, in compliance with the statutes of Nebraska, authorized the issue of bonds to the amount of fifty thousand dollars in series of five hundred dollars each.”<sup>2</sup> A trust deed upon the university campus, building, and one hundred and thirty-four lots was given to the Globe Loan and Trust Company of Omaha, for the purpose of securing these bonds. The Board hoped in this way to gain time and ultimately to save the university.

The final outcome was just opposite to what they had

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<sup>1</sup>Record book of Board Proceedings, pp. 264.

<sup>2</sup>Record Book of Board Proceedings, pp. 538.

<sup>3</sup>Record Book of Board Proceedings, pp. 539.

hoped. The financial panic swept the entire country. The creditors secured judgments against the property of the persons who had bought lots and given their notes in payment. This was not sufficient to meet their claims because all values, particularly land, had greatly depreciated. Deficiency judgments were then secured against the property of the finance committee from the Board of Trustees. It was in this way that J. Z. Briscoe and others lost heavily. As this was still insufficient the university building and property were taken. This property was all taken to pay the creditors because of the decrease in land values. As an illustration of this fact, lots that sold for \$250 before the panic sold for \$25 afterward.

To equip and man a college is as much a business proposition as to equip and man a steel mill or a department store. At the outset Cotner University had but one acting head, a president. It was the duty of this man to be the presiding officer of the faculty and to have the general oversight and management of the school. The title given to the individual in this position was that of president. The president and the Board of Trustees shared together the responsibility of the financial situation. It was felt, however, that if a competent man could be secured, whose sole work would be that of devising a plan for the adequate financing of the school, conditions would be greatly improved. With this end in view the office of chancellor was created and A. E. Jennings was called to fill the position.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Jennings accepted the call and began at once a careful investigation of the existing conditions. In his

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<sup>1</sup>A. E. Jennings was a resident of Ann Arbor, Mich. He had shown a keen interest in the educational movement of the Christian church in the west. He was chosen Chancellor of Cotner with the hope that he could secure help from the wealthy men of the east.

report, given on June 12, 1894, he found for the school year just closed, a deficit of \$12,725. "Investigation shows we have been running behind on an average of \$10,000 a year for four years."<sup>1</sup> The total debt was \$75,000; of this total there were farm obligations amounting to \$15,000. The Articles of Incorporation permitted a debt of but \$50,000. Mr. Jennings said: "There are two ways out of the difficulty. First, amend our charter to allow more indebtedness; second, devise some way to come within our limit. I cannot under any circumstances recommend the former."<sup>2</sup>

The assets of the university were also carefully noted. He found it impossible to get accurate information as to the amount due the university. His report gives the assets as amounting to \$312,000."

According to the findings of Mr. Jennings the assets were far in excess of the liabilities but regardless of the value of the assets the Board was unable to turn any of it into money. On a whole Mr. Jennings' work was satisfactory, but owing to the dual headship there was more or less friction, President Dungan showing a somewhat jealous spirit toward Mr. Jennings. At the end of the first year, in which Mr. Jennings had canvassed for pledges, his resignation was tendered and accepted. From this time on the head of the school was to be known as chancellor and Mr. Dungan was to fill this position.

It seemed that every hope had vanished. The university was in the hands of creditors. All plans of relief had failed. The indebtedness was daily increasing. Must the school close and the property be turned over to the creditors?

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<sup>1</sup>Record Book.

<sup>2</sup>Record Book.

<sup>3</sup>Assets according to the Jennings report: Building \$85,000; Campus, \$40,000; Lots, \$98,000; Farms, \$50,000; Notes and Mortgages, \$39,000. Total, \$312,000.

## CHAPTER XII

### The School in Jeopardy

Cotner University was now in jeopardy, but the men who loved the school were not going to let it go without another effort to save it. During these dark years one of the most hopeful propositions was made by Mr. F. M. Call of St. Louis, Missouri. The founders of Cotner realized that the school could not continue without an endowment and in their efforts to provide such, Mr. Call had been solicited a year or so before the panic. Being greatly interested in the higher educational movement, he promised to respond with a gift of \$50,000. Before this plan could be consummated, however, the panic had swept over the entire country.

The indebtedness was rapidly increasing. Mr. Call was solicited to see if the form of his proposed gift could not be changed and used to save the university from creditors. This agreement was finally reached: Mr. Call was to give \$50,000 which was to be used to pay off the indebtedness and thus save the school, provided the Trustees would deed him all the university property, valued at over \$300,000, as a guarantee that as soon as the financial outlook of the country brightened, the Board of Trustees would raise \$50,000 for an endowment fund. This would mean virtually the same as Mr. Call giving that amount for an endowment and would serve the additional purpose of saving the university. It must be remembered that the financial conditions were such that the creditors would very soon take the property. There seemed to be no way available to meet this indebtedness and unless the university could be relieved of this burden an en-

dowment would be futile. This indeed seemed a happy remedy for two ills, viz: the relieving of the debt and the securing of an endowment fund.

Another part of the agreement required the changing of the name from Cotner to Call University. Mr. Cotner was consulted regarding this anticipated change and true to his generous disposition he told the Board to do whatever was best for the future of the school. It was hoped and felt, however, that when Mr. Call should arrive and be made acquainted with the circumstances he would accept the name, Call-Cotner University.

No one thought it impossible to raise \$50,000 for an endowment as soon as financial conditions again became normal. As soon as this money should be raised, Mr. Call agreed to return to the university all the property which it had deeded to him. A contract embodying these ideas had been drawn and lacked only the signatures of the contracting parties to make it binding. Excerpts from the contract show how carefully all the details had been worked out. "This article of agreement entered into this 10th day of April, A. D. 1895, by and between the Nebraska Christian Educational Board of Lancaster county, Nebraska, party of the first part, and F. M. Call of Saint Louis, Missouri, party of the second part, witnesseth: That in consideration of the payment and covenants hereinafter mentioned to be made and performed, the party of the first part will convey and assure to the party of the second part, in fee simple, clear of all encumbrances whatsoever by good and sufficient warranty deed all property owned by the University. "The party of the first part further agrees that on and after the signing of this agreement the name of the institution shall be Call University. The party of the second part hereby agrees that the University shall be under the control

and management of The Nebraska Christian Educational Board the same as though these covenants had never been entered into, and to deed to purchasers any of the vacant lots at the request of the said first party. And at any time that the said party of the first part shall have freed itself from all debts and liability, and secure and furnish Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) as endowment to said university in addition to its present resources, party of the second part shall deed back to party of the first part, free and clear of all encumbrances whatsoever, said University, Campus and buildings, Dormitory and Hospital with grounds and furnishings thereunto belonging to all buildings. The party of the second part also agrees to execute a deed of all property conveyed as mentioned above to party of the first part, and place said deed in the hands of his administrator or his executor with instructions to deliver to party of the first part in case of decease of party of the second part."

Before the final execution of the plan it was necessary to obtain the sanction of the creditors. This was easily secured, together with liberal reductions on their part. A meeting of the Board of Trustees was called, to which the creditors and Mr. F. M. Call were invited. Inasmuch as President Dungan had been influential in interesting Mr. Call in Cotner University, he was also present. The meeting assembled and all parties were hopeful. There was not the slightest thought of failure in bringing about the desired results. It is unfortunate that the historian must record things as they were, rather than as it was hoped they would be. The whole proposition suddenly collapsed and Cotner lost the chances of receiving the \$50,000. Just what influences caused Mr. Call to withdraw his proffered gift will probably never be known. Undoubtedly, by talking and investigating, Mr. Call



learned that the financial circumstances of the school were very doubtful. Whatever the cause he returned to St. Louis and no renewal of negotiations was attempted on either his part or that of the university.

Mr. Charles R. Van Duyn was the "all purpose" man of the university. It was his duty to look after its many varied interests. In his report given in June, 1895, the real condition of the university is presented. "This has been one of the most busy, anxious and laborious years of my life. I have acted in the capacity of correspondent, collector, bookkeeper, secretary, treasurer, etc. It has required a great deal of time, both by correspondence and personal interview, to keep our creditors from bringing suits and closing us out to satisfy their claims. I here mention, very briefly, a few things that have been done. I made settlement with Bro. A. E. Jennings and secured the \$1,000 donation on his salary which he agreed to give if a satisfactory arrangement could be made with him within ten days after his resignation. J. M. Howie was employed to assist in keeping the accounts; but in one month he resigned his position and I have done that part of the work myself, saving the Board thereby \$510.00. Prof. F. E. Haughey resigned his position one month before his time expired which saved us \$10.95. I made settlement with Noah and Margaret L. Weaver and thus relieved the Board of \$500.00 judgment. Collected notes for Miles and Thompson and the Fremont Loan and Trust Co., on which the Board is endorser, to the amount of \$4,173.85, and received \$64.40 fees for collecting the same which the Board gets credit for on my salary. I donated one-half of the expense (\$27.50) for telephone services during the time we used the phone. December 1st, we discontinued the service of the telephone which cut off the expense of \$10.00 per month. I spent five weeks in Illinois in company with

D. R. Dungan to try to sell our lands; but owing to successive failures of crops for two years in Nebraska, it was impossible to interest investors. We exchanged the equities on three farms in Custer county, Nebr., amounting to \$395.88, on coal bill and to provide for coal this year. This exchange was made with J. E. Lowery of Lincoln. Foreclosure suits are commenced on several of our farms. In all these cases, I have asked for a stay of nine months and it has been granted. The time of redemption has about expired on one of them; we have some time on all others. It has been almost impossible to make collections on our personal notes or pledges, owing to the uncertain condition of our institution. I have looked after the building to keep it in repair and in as good condition as possible."<sup>1</sup>

According to Mr. Van Duyn's report, the liabilities of the university were \$98,089.29, the assets \$313,524.63. But values had so greatly depreciated that it was impossible to secure money from any source. Foreclosures were constantly being made upon university property. The salaries of the faculty remained unpaid. In order to save the teachers from complete loss, bills of sale were made out, giving them the furniture, desks and other articles in their respective rooms.

It was now thought wise to give the chancellor more authority. "He was to have the sole power of nominating his co-workers in the faculty," subject to the approval of the Board, they still having the right to elect a chancellor.

The Christian Educational Board was helpless. Not even the running expenses of the school could be paid. The chancellor and faculty were at this juncture given entire charge of the university, receiving the free use

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<sup>1</sup>Record Book of Board Proceedings, pp. 398.

and control of the building and all income from tuition and endowment. They must pay all expenses incurred and then prorate the balance in proportion to the amount of salary agreed upon, which was to be accepted as full compensation.

These changes meant an entire reorganization with regard to the management of the university. The Board of Trustees was to elect a chancellor, the chancellor to select the faculty. The building was turned over to them, they were to receive all income and pay all expenses with it. It really meant that the chancellor and faculty had full control.

## CHAPTER XIII

### Cotner Redeemed

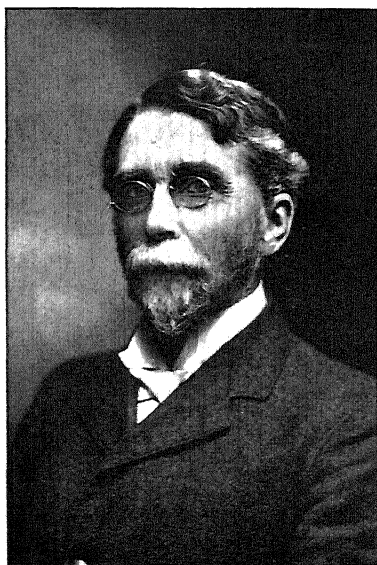
There were many indications during the last months of the school year ending in June, 1896, that this was the last year for Cotner. Many students were making preparations to go elsewhere while some of the upper classmen doubled their work in order to finish their course or become graduates with the class of '96. Many thought the future of Cotner hopeless, while all were doubtful. Those in charge, however, were going to make one more effort. Chancellor Dungan went to California during the summer vacation, hoping to raise money, but returned wholly unsuccessful a few weeks before school was to begin.

To all inquirers Chancellor Dungan told the result of his efforts and publicly stated that there was only one condition upon which he would begin school; viz: that one thousand dollars be raised in cash in Bethany within the next two weeks. This was an impossibility, for as a long-time citizen of Bethany recently remarked, "It would have been practically impossible to have raised one thousand dimes in cash in the town in so short a time, let alone raising one thousand dollars."

To close school meant a "hard blow" to the Christian churches of the state; to the town of Bethany, and to the many students of Cotner. Many citizens of Bethany were keenly interested and it was decided to call a special meeting to see if anything could be done to prevent this unhappy result. It was the sense of this meeting that the school ought not to close. After careful deliberation, it was decided to ask the Board of Trustees to request Chancellor Dungan to

begin school without the one thousand dollars in cash and if he positively refused to do so, as a last resort, to ask for his resignation in order that someone else might undertake the task. Before the plan, decided upon at this meeting could be carried out, Chancellor Dungan tendered his resignation.

W. P. Aylsworth was now called to fill this important position of chancellor at this most critical time. It was a task no one would seek and one which but



W. P. Aylsworth

few would have accepted. Dr. Aylsworth cheerfully assumed this responsibility in order that another effort might be made to save Cotner to the cause of Christian education. Dr. Aylsworth chose as able a body of teachers as possible under existing conditions and school was begun in the face of what seemed al-

most hopeless circumstances. All realized that but little was accomplished in the opening of school. Nothing lasting could come unless money was secured. The campus, building and all university property were in the hands of creditors. The *Christian News* said, "We are a people of many thousand with a splendid school but no university building. We are now occupying a beautiful building in architecture and costly in construction held by a trustee for the benefit of the banks of Lincoln."<sup>1</sup> The creditors were permitting school to be held in the old building and offered to return the property upon liberal terms.

Three great steps must now be taken, first a plan of redemption must be formulated; second, the very best terms possible must be secured from the creditors, and lastly, some competent person must be secured to carry to completion the work of redemption. In 1893, funds, secured by a trust deed, had been issued for \$50,000. "During the years 1895-'96 many deficiency judgments were rendered against the Board of Trustees on mortgages that had been taken in payment for property and sold, the mortgages having never been paid. These judgments all became liens upon the university. The creditors who held the bonds, secured by the trust deed, commenced an action to foreclose their lien upon the property. A decree was rendered giving them a first lien on all the property, included in the trust deed and subsequently the property was sold and bought in by the creditors, it being held by a trustee for their benefit."<sup>2</sup> Such was the financial situation when it was decided to open school in the autumn of 1896. This proved, however, to be a successful school year.

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<sup>1</sup>The *Christian News*, 1896.

NOTE: This was the official paper of the Christian churches of Nebraska edited by William Sumpter.

<sup>2</sup>The *Christian News*, 1897.

A committee which had been appointed at the meeting of Bethany citizens, in accordance with the wish expressed at that time, issued a call for a conference of leading ministers and churchmen of Nebraska. The letter sent out was as follows:

Bethany, Nebr., April 19, 1897.

Dear Friend and Brother:—You are doubtless familiar with the great financial embarrassment hitherto attending Cotner University. Some months ago the building and campus were sold under foreclosure and are now held by a trustee for the creditors. It is only a question of time when some other people will buy it if we do not. It can be purchased for a small percent of the original cost. Circumstances demand, in order to hold the property, a new organization and management. To this end we earnestly invite you to be present at a meeting of influential and representative brethren from different parts of the state to be held at the university Thursday at 3 o'clock p. m., April 29. The immediate object of the meeting will not be to raise funds but to devise ways to accomplish the above ends. Will you come? Entertainment will be furnished while here. Sincerely and fraternally,

W. P. AYLSWORTH,  
F. L. SUMPTER,  
J. E. WALLER,  
A. D. HARMON,  
J. W. HILTON,

Committee.

In response to this call forty-two persons assembled, while many others who could not be present sent meeting is given in these words: "W. P. Aylsworth words of hope and encouragement. The work of this was elected temporary chairman and C. J. Grainger of

Fremont temporary secretary. The assembly was then led in prayer by J. M. Vawter of Omaha. The chairman briefly, but very clearly, set forth the purpose of the meeting and the situation of the property of the school. He showed to the brethren present that the time was fully at hand and was the most opportune we would probably ever have for purchasing the property in question.

J. E. Harris was elected permanent chairman and O. J. Grainger permanent secretary. After the permanent chairman had taken charge and asked the pleasure of the meeting a full and free discussion was participated in by brethren from Omaha, Exeter, Elmwood, East Lincoln, Auburn, Eagle and other places, respecting the situation and inquiring closely into matters respecting the property and what could be done to save it from a similar fate when purchased by the church.

Immediately following the period of many pointed questions and as many clear-cut answers it was the sense of those present that no step should be taken without the most careful examination into the present legal status of the university property, and accordingly the chair was ordered to appoint two, who in conjunction with himself, should employ the best legal talent in the city to examine the abstract of the title and get their written opinion thereupon.

W. P. Aylsworth and H. J. Kirschstein were appointed to act with J. E. Harris to employ an expert to examine the title to the property. Next came the discussion of the basis of organization after the purchase of the university property. After some deliberation it was decided to hear read a proposed plan of corporation as outlined by the committee making the call for the meeting. Accordingly all further discussion was dispensed with until F. L. Sumpter had read



the outline in question. It was read over carefully by Mr. Sumpter and received the approbation of the assembly. This is accounted for by the fact that the committee who submitted the plan had spent many hours both in committee and in private, thinking intensely over it before the meeting occurred."<sup>1</sup>

Three committees were appointed at this meeting. The one above mentioned to look into the title to the property, another to draw up articles of incorporation. These two were temporary committees. A third was to be a permanent one and was known as the Ways and Means committee,<sup>2</sup> consisting of ten persons, to whom minor committees were to report and who, in conjunction with Chancellor Aylsworth, were to forward all plans made, call meetings of the brotherhood when necessary and in general forward the interests of the university.

The great plan of redemption was to make a thorough canvass of the churches of Nebraska and adjoining states in an effort to secure money which was to be known as the trust fund. The donors to this fund were to be known as the certificate holders. These individuals should meet once a year in order to elect a Board of Trustees and to decide upon questions of business and management of Cotner University. "Any person may become a member of this corporation and receive a certificate of membership upon the donation of one hundred dollars to be used in purchasing and endowing the Nebraska Christian University."<sup>3</sup> Any Church of Christ, Christian Endeavor, Ladies Aid Society or any other organization connected with the

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<sup>1</sup>The Christian News, 1897.

<sup>2</sup>The following were members of the Ways and Means Committee: J. M. Vawter, L. C. Oberlies, E. S. Chamberlain, J. E. Harris, F. A. Bright, F. L. Sumpter, A. D. Harmon, J. W. Hilton, F. L. Wilmeth, A. W. Harney.

<sup>3</sup>Articles of Incorporation of Cotner University.

church upon the donation of one hundred dollars, would become a certificate holder. In order that persons or churches of a later period might have a part in the endowment and a vote in the management and control of the school, they might at any time be granted certificates upon the receipt of one hundred dollars for the permanent endowment fund.

The Board of Trustees consisted of fifteen members. The term of office was three years. The first Board was to consist of five members elected for one, five for two and five for three years. One very important limitation was placed upon the Board of Trustees. "The Board of Trustees shall not have power to mortgage or encumber the university building and campus." "The Board of Trustees shall not contract any indebtedness or incur any liability beyond the actual income of the university and in the employment of a faculty, they shall enter into a written contract whereby the compensation shall be a proportionate share of the net income of the university from all sources, less the necessary actual expense but such share not to exceed a certain fixed amount. No other contract shall be made until such a time as the income from endowment and otherwise shall warrant the giving of fixed salaries."<sup>1</sup>

The new organization of the university provided that the chancellor should be head of the school and faculty, recommending new teachers, plans, etc. The chancellor was to be elected by the Board of Trustees and must report to and be governed by that body. The Trustees in turn were to be elected and controlled by the certificate holders. It was hoped by this plan of certificates, to create a large constituency personally interested in the future of Cotner University. Of course, gifts of less than one hundred dollars were accepted and due credit given.

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<sup>1</sup>Articles of Incorporation of Cotner University.

The great problem after the formation of the plan, was the execution of it. Ordinarily it would not be a difficult task to raise a few thousand dollars but it must be remembered that the jaws of the crisis had scarcely loosened their grip upon the people. Almost every man had obligations of his own to meet which seemed almost too great without attempting to aid in paying the obligations of a university.

A name which must always be linked with Cotner redemption is that of W. P. Aylsworth. He gave constant help and advice in formulating the plan, working upon committees and in standing at the head of the school in these trying times. For two years, while acting as chancellor and professor of Sacred literature, he spent all of his spare time in raising money for the trust fund.

If dollar for dollar of the indebtedness had been required by the creditors it would have been impossible to have regained possession of Cotner University building.

The largest part of the debt was held by four banks of Lincoln, namely:

First National Bank of Lincoln.....	\$12,064.36
American Exchange Bank.....	8,043.11
Columbia National Bank.....	4,946.00
The Union Savings Bank.....	14,110.57

In addition to the bank claims, the faculty had also secured a judgment against the property for \$12,535.41 due them in unpaid salaries. The total indebtedness thus amounted to \$51,699.45. Those working for the redemption of the university were able to get this amount reduced to about one-fourth, or to \$13,807.25. This sum must be raised to save Cotner.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>The figures concerning the financial status were secured from papers, receipts and documents belonging to J. W. Hilton. In addition to the one-fourth there was \$800 which had to be paid

A few members of the faculty refused to accept one-fourth as full payment of their claims so it was necessary, in order to satisfy them, to pay them more. Several other members of the faculty, however, accepted the one-fourth adjustment and were also willing to take Bethany lots instead of cash in payment. These lots were taken at about \$25 apiece. Lots had been selling from \$200 to \$400 before the crisis. This is only one illustration of the great depreciation in land values. After these plans had been formed and the terms secured, the real work of redemption was begun.

The words of a few of the Christian ministers will indicate how people felt about the need of and the plan for redemption:

"Your plan impresses me as the best possible application of sound business principles applicable to the present emergency. It will take many years to recover from the shock if the school, with its power for good, is lost to us."—A. W. Davis, Falls City, Nebr.

"I believe the articles of incorporation to cover quite thoroughly the ground for which they were drawn and I think the plan the most sensible and practical one yet framed. May God bless the efforts to make it a success."—L. P. Bush, Tecumseh, Nebr.

"To lose the university means to the churches of Nebraska and the west what paralysis means to the human body. We cannot spare Cotner University."—George C. Ritchey, Humboldt, Nebr.

"With these articles as a basis of organization I see no reason why all donations or gifts made to the university should not be on the safest of foundations. They have a business ring to them."—J. W. Elliot, Harvard, Nebr.

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to the creditors for having kept up the insurance on the building. It will still not quite make the \$13,807.25 because some would not settle on the one-fourth basis.

With almost universal support of the church the canvass was begun. Five percent of the amount of the pledges received was to be used to defray expenses. Pledges were taken with the understanding that if the sufficient amount was not raised to redeem the property not less than eighty percent of the pledge should be returned. Until the total amount was raised the money was to be held by William Sumpter as a trust fund, that is, a fund held in sacred trust. The raising of this money was not an easy task. It could not be accomplished in a few weeks. Many were willing to help yet powerless to do so. This is the form of the pledge used:

**A PLEDGE TO THE TRUST FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF COTNER UNIVERSITY BY THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN NEBRASKA**

\$..... 189.....

..... Promises to pay .....  
dollars to become a trust fund, to be used in purchasing the property known as Cotner University, together with the campus, dormitory and 134 resident lots. The said amount to be paid to William Sumpter as treasurer and trustee of said fund.

To be paid.....

By 1898, Dr. Aylsworth had succeeded in making a good beginning on the necessary amount. He had been very successful for it was realized that the task of acting as chancellor, professor and of raising the trust fund, was too great for one man. Many of the pledges which had been secured by Dr. Aylsworth were given by citizens of Bethany and the immediate vicinity. A more extended canvass must be made; the appeal must be taken to all the churches of Nebraska and adjoining states; more time must be given than Chancellor Aylsworth could spare, if success was to crown the efforts of those who labored for the redemption of Cotner.

All people instinctively turned to a member of the graduating class of 1898; to one who had already rendered valuable service. No one had taken a greater personal interest in the cause of Cotner. He was now employed to enter the field and solicit funds. Mr.



J. W. Hilton

Hilton was a young man full of enthusiasm and power, willing to leave his home and family and sacrifice himself financially. His efforts were rewarded in that the Christian church now owns a great Christian University known as Cotner. Just as we can point to the men who assisted most in founding Cotner University; as we can praise those who have stood at the head of the school in trying days; as we can name with pride those who have stood as peers in the classroom, so can we point to J. W. Hilton as the one whose name

should be honored above all others in leading the work of redemption of Cotner University.<sup>1</sup>

Other factors, however, assisted in making the enterprise a success. Words of praise are due the churches for their loyalty. In every church was to be found an alumnus, an old student or a friend of Cotner. They rang true every time and did their best.

The students in Cotner at that time should not be forgotten. They banded themselves together in an organization known as the Students League and assisted greatly by sending letters and information to all parts of the state. Those especially prominent in the Students League were J. W. Hilton, Grace Young and Frank Turner. At one time when it seemed that the task was hopeless, school was dismissed and the students returned to their home communities for one week to solicit funds for the university. None failed and many were very successful. By thus gathering the small sums and putting them into one fund a substantial gain was made.

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<sup>1</sup>J. W. Hilton was born in New York City March 27, 1867. His parents moved to Nebraska when he was eight years of age, settling upon a farm near Dorchester. His early schooling was meagre but he began teaching in the country schools in the winter months and working in a Dorchester bank during vacations. The year 1887-1888 was spent at Fairfield College. After determining to pursue his education, Mr. Hilton with his wife and two children moved to Bethany in the fall of 1892, when he entered Cotner University as a preparatory student. One school year was lost on account of severe sickness but the college course was completed in 1898. Upon graduation Mr. Hilton was chosen by the Ways and Means Committee to travel for Cotner University to raise funds for the redemption of the school. Three of the six years of student preaching was for the East Side Christian Church of Lincoln. While preaching for the East Side church and four years for the Bethany church he was able to complete his work for a master's degree at the University of Nebraska and all but his thesis for a doctor's degree. In 1907 he was elected as professor of sociology and associate professor of Sacred literature at Cotner. After five years as a professor he resigned to lead the East Lincoln church to greater achievements.

At another time when failure seemed imminent a new friend was found in the person of Alfred Allen. This young man owned an eighty-acre farm near Rising City, Nebraska, which he offered to give to save Cotner. The Board of Trustees refused to accept the proffered gift feeling that it was too great a sacrifice for Mr. Allen to make. They felt it was too much to accept all of a man's property although it was gladly offered. The farm was valued at \$2,000, one-fourth of this amount or \$500 was accepted as a splendid gift. Mr. Allen's name should not be forgotten among those who made the recovery of Cotner possible.

L. P. Bush as secretary of the college during these trying years, is deserving of special credit. He assumed this task upon the request of Chancellor Aylsworth, who had been acting in this capacity in addition to his other work. Mr. Bush served three years during which time he was also pastor of the Bethany church or a professor in the college. One of the commendable features of his work as college secretary was the securing and collecting of sufficient pledges to keep J. W. Hilton in the field as financial agent. A host of other names should be mentioned if space would permit, among whom would be Dr. S. L. Hubbard, F. L. Sumpter, Grace E. Young and William Sumpter.

The last gift to be secured was also the largest one. It was the result of Chancellor Aylsworth's efforts that Horace Morse, a Colorado friend, gave \$2,000 to Cotner University. While under normal conditions this gift would not be considered extraordinary, coming at the opportune moment it did, and at the close of the years of financial depression, Mr. Morse should be called a munificent benefactor of Cotner.

As we re-count these names and events we should not forget the faculty who held the school together,



receiving almost no salary. At the head of this group stood W. P. Aylsworth; bearing the burdens, forgetting the criticism, always with the one thought of saving Cotner University.

After several years of economy, sacrifice and labor, \$12,906.80 in cash had been paid to Mr. N. Z. Snell, trustee. Although there was a small amount yet to pay, by Mr. Hilton signing the following agreement the property was returned to its former owners: "Whereas, N. Z. Snell, trustee, has deeded to Frederick L. Sumpter and Thomas Rawlings, the campus and lots eight (8) and nine (9) in block thirty-nine (39) of Bethany to be by said guarantee deeded to the Nebraska Christian University when incorporated, the agreed consideration for which property, with other property described in the sheriff's deed of date December 5, 1896, to said Snell as trustee was \$13,750.00 of which \$12,906.80 only have been paid and,

Whereas, I have secured pledges which, when paid, will more than discharge the balance remaining unpaid, and

Now therefore I undertake and agree with the said N. Z. Snell, trustee, that the said sums so pledged are a trust fund to be used in the payment of said balance only.

And I further undertake and agree that I will continue in the future as I have in the past to collect said pledges and secure additional pledges and collect the same until said balance is wholly paid to said N. Z. Snell, trustee.

J. W. Hilton.

The university property again belonged to the Christian church. The small sum that was lacking was paid in full. It was absolutely free from the shackles of debt. From the day of redemption to the present no indebtedness has ever been placed upon the university. This has only been possible because of economy in every

way, particularly as to salaries paid for teachers. For many years they labored for \$25 per month and sometimes as low as \$10 or \$15 per month.

When Cotner was released from indebtedness new life and force was instilled into the school. It was a time for great rejoicing. Students, alumni, teachers and friends all took up the cry of victory.

*"Now sweep the strings of passion lyre  
And tune a thousand tongues of fire;  
Lift up the song of Jubilee—  
Praise God, our Alma Mater's free.  
Let every heart responsive sing  
In true devotion to our King,  
And shout the Jubilee."*<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Last verse "The Jubilee Poem," by J. W. Hilton.

## CHAPTER XIV

### The Faculty at Work

In the life record of each mature man or woman there are but few who have had to do with the direct molding and shaping of that life, although there are many whose influence must be counted. Among those who are most responsible for the future career are the teachers under whose supervision the plastic youth is placed. Fortunate indeed, is the student whose life is so directed that he may receive training under competent Christian instructors. "It does not so much matter what we study as with whom we study." As compared with the State University, the Christian college usually offers smaller laboratories and fewer books but this is offset by the intimate companionship, counsel and oversight of men in whom broad scholarship, Christian faith and consecrated life form a consistent whole.

Many factors enter into the formation of a university such as buildings, equipment, laboratories, libraries and endowment but by far the most important factor is teachers. The original idea of a university was that of a teacher around whom a group of students had gathered. Whether a university was popular or commonplace depended upon whether a great teacher was in their midst or not. Students would pass from one nation to another in order to sit at the feet of a great teacher. Great teachers make great universities; poor teachers, poor universities. It is evident that a teacher is an important factor in the life of a youth and the most essential thing in a university. It is almost impossible to place too much emphasis upon the importance of the faculty of an educational institution.

During the twenty-seven years of Cotner's existence she has had fifty-five teachers in the regular College of Liberal Arts department with probably as many more in the special departments. Of the regular instructors twenty-six have held the degree of Master of Arts; twenty-five, Bachelor of Arts and only four have been without degrees.

The work in the College of Arts at Cotner University may be roughly divided into eight departments. To old students, alumni and friends, the names of these teachers will recall many pleasant associations.

#### **Bible Department**

W. P. Aylsworth, A. M., LL. D., Head Professor.....	1889-1916
D. R. Dungan, A. M., LL. D., Moral Philosophy .....	1890-1896
L. P. Bush, A. M., Associate in Sacred Literature .....	1898-1901 1912-1916
J. W. Hilton, A. M., Associate in Sacred Literature.....	1907-1911

#### **Mathematics**

J. A. Beattie, A. M. <sup>1</sup> .....	1889-1896
G. E. Jones, A. M.....	1896-1897
Wm. M. Reeves, A. M.....	1897-1916
A. W. Osterhout, A. B., assistant.....	1910-1916

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<sup>1</sup>James A. Beattie was born in Ashland county, Ohio, May 11, 1845. He was educated in the public schools of Ohio, at an academy at Savannah, Ohio, and at Bethany College, West Virginia. Dr. Beattie has held many important positions in educational work. He has served as president of Oskaloosa College (Iowa); Nebraska State Normal at Peru; the Eastern Oregon State Normal and Hiram College, Ohio. For many years he was a professor at Cotner University, part of the time serving as Vice President. During the early days of Cotner, Dr. Beattie acted as field agent, selling lots, soliciting students and funds or working in the interests of the library. Professor Beattie is widely and highly regarded by the teaching profession as an educator of marked ability. At present he lives in Lincoln, Nebraska.

### History

Nora Madden, A. M.....	1893-1896
A. D. Harmon, A. M.....	1896-1897
Ellen B. Atwater, A. M.....	1897-1901
F. T. Kincaid, A. B.....	1901-1902
L. P. Bush, A. M.....	1902-1913
L. A. Moomaw, A. M.....	1913-1916

### English Literature

Nora Madden, A. M.....	1893-1896
Ellen B. Atwater, A. M.....	1897-1901
A. D. Harmon, A. M.....	1896-1897
F. T. Kincaid, A. B.....	1901-1902
Rilla G. Lane, A. B.....	1903-1904
Beatrice Haskins, A. B.....	1904-1905
Mary Clipfell, A. M.....	1905-1908
R. G. Aylsworth, A. M.....	1908-1910
Bert Wilson, A. B.....	1910-1912
Cora Marsland.....	1912-1913
Mrs. T. J. Fitzpatrick, B. S.....	1913-1914
Josie Y. Osterhout, A. B.....	1914-1916

### Philosophy

D. R. Dungan, A. M., LL. D.....	1890-1896
W. P. Aylsworth, A. M., LL. D.....	1896-1902
L. P. Bush, A. M.....	1902-1916

### Modern Languages

Percy B. Burnet, A. M.....	1889-1893
Martin Osterholm, A. M.....	1893-1896
Grace E. Young, A. M.....	1897-1916

### Science Department

T. J. Oliver, B. S.....	1890-1891
S. A. Hoover, A. M.....	1891-1894
N. A. Stull, A. M.....	1894-1896
H. H. Jones.....	1896-1904
D. C. Hilton, A. M.....	1904-1906
Melvin R. Gilmore, A. M.....	1904-1911
W. A. Dobson.....	1902-1903

Geo. M. Jacobs, A. B.....	1907-1911
H. D. Shellenberger.....	1911-1913
T. J. Fitzpatrick, M. S.....	1913-1914
E. E. Smith, A. B.....	1913-1916
E. F. Walker, A. M.....	1914-1916

### Ancient Languages

A. M. Chamberlain, A. M.....	1889-1891
C. B. Newcomer, A. M.....	1891-1893
J. F. Woolery, A. M.....	1893-1896
Raymond G. Aylsworth, A. B.....	1896-1899
Alvin E. Evans, A. M.....	1897-1901
T. Milo Keith, A. M. <sup>1</sup> .....	1902-1914
Lydia Wampler, A. B.....	1904-1916
Ruth Lindley, A. M.....	1914-1916
Kitty M. Austin, A. B., assistant.....	1899-1901
Clara J. Austin, A. B., assistant.....	1901-1904
M. R. Gilmore, A. B., assistant.....	1903-1904

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<sup>1</sup>T. Milo Keith was head of the Greek department in Cotner University for ten years. His training for this work was secured by taking the classical course at Cotner, graduating in 1903 and by completing the work for a master's degree at the University of Nebraska. Still being anxious to go higher he was working for a doctor's degree at the University of Chicago. Although frail in body, he was a splendid example of untiring energy and perseverance. At the time of his death Professor Keith was cashier of the Bethany State Bank, having given up his work in Cotner a few months before. A second stroke of paralysis brought death to this splendid man in the spring of 1914, thus closing a life that was full of promise, at the age of thirty-three. The following clipping from the Cotner Collegian shows the esteem in which he was held:

"Although his life was short, the thirty-three years of active work were not in vain and all who have known him will ever think upon his life as a benediction, as a wholehearted, true, steadfast, purposeful soul, who taught despite discouragements mastered not only Greek and Latin in a marvelous way and Although frail in body he was a splendid example of untiring taught them with a comprehension of one who wishes to impress everyone with the importance of doing all things well, but he mastered the great problem of life, to be content to live well and nobly and to serve others."

It is impossible for the historian to speak of the merits of as many teachers as Cotner has had, even though everyone were deserving. A committee has chosen eleven of the fifty-five teachers which it felt were deserving of special mention as a sort of Who's Who list of Cotner teachers.<sup>1</sup> This is in no way a discredit to the vast number of splendid teachers whose names are not mentioned in the list. The decision of the committee was based upon three things. First, their merit as real instructors; second, the personality of the teacher and third, the length of time spent at Cotner.

#### Who's Who Teachers at Cotner

W. P. Aylsworth.....	Professor of Biblical Literature
J. A. Beattie.....	Department of Education
L. P. Bush.....	Professor of Philosophy
R. L. Hoff.....	Department of Education
T. Milo Keith.....	Professor of Greek
S. A. Hoover.....	Professor of Natural Science
Leon A. Moomaw.....	Professor History and Social Science
Josie Y. Osterhout.....	Professor of English
Lydia Wampler.....	Professor of Latin
Grace E. Young.....	Professor of Modern Languages

A student of each one of these teachers, who is a graduate of the school, has been asked to give his or her reasons for considering that instructor as a teacher of special merit.

L. P. BUSH: He, who is entrusted with the Chair of Philosophy in a Christian school has a task, the peculiar problems of which are many of serious concern and ever on the increase. In the person of Prof. L. Penn Bush, I have found a man who, under the conditions

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<sup>1</sup>The committee who chose the Who's Who teachers, requested that their names should not be published. Those who had a part in the choosing were from the following classes: Three from the class of 1893, one from 1894, one from 1909, one from 1911, one from 1913, and one from the class of 1916.

is rendering an especially noteworthy service. His ability to set the student, who cares, eagerly to working out his or her philosophy of life is to me remarkable. Few services are greater than that of stimulating the students to dig down, as it were, into his own soul and think.—Robert A. Conley, '15.



Mrs. Josie Y. Osterhout

**JOSIE YORK OSTERHOUT:** One who conscientiously guides and directs the thoughts of her students into channels of life long usefulness. She is kind, sympathetic, practical, broad minded and progressive. From a book of hard cold facts she transforms the text into one teeming with life. Those who sit before her day after day, cannot help but be better men and women for having come into personal touch with such a Christian character. Her work will live long after she has left us.—Margaret Knapple, '16.





Professor R. L. Hoff

R. L. HOFF: In all things was Professor Hoff thorough and systematic. When he assigned a lesson, the pupil realized he must work and it was always worth the effort expended. While Professor Hoff had his own views upon a subject, as should everyone who is really worth while, yet he was broad minded and always willing to look at both sides of a question. He was a scholarly man and inspired his pupils to do things which amounted to something. Those things, which were learned in his classes, were never forgotten.—Floss Strain, '16.



Miss Lydia Wampler

LYDIA WAMPLER for eleven years connected with the department of ancient languages at Cotner University, is a very efficient instructor. Her success is due to the fact that she is a true, sympathetic friend to each student with whom she comes in contact and she is master of her subject. Being a thorough efficient student not only in Latin, but also in the leading questions of the day, she makes her teaching vital.—Josie Somers, '11.



Leon A. Moomaw

LEON A. MOOMAW is a highly successful teacher for two reasons; first, he knows his subjects thoroughly and knows how to present them in a clear, concise manner. Second, he understands his students and takes a very deep interest in their work.—Charles Streeter, '16.

JAMES A. BEATTIE: Scholarly, sympathetic, sincere. A true and tried teacher. Dr. Beattie impressed upon his pupils the seriousness of life and its problems. He inspired them to the achievements of the highest and best. He was a friend, counselor and example.—Nettie Sherman, '14.



T. Milo Keith (deceased)

T. MILO KEITH had a surprising understanding of his courses. Without a doubt he possessed a marked ability in being able to convey his knowledge to others. He has acquired an almost uncanny knowledge of the ability of his students and the efforts they were making, and with this knowledge he courageously proceeded to properly acquaint them with their mistakes and accomplishments in the work in hand. He showed no favor, and because of his insight, learning and appreciation of merit, he inspired many with the desire to do thorough and conscientious work.—Clarence G. Miles.

**WILLIAM PRINCE AYLSWORTH:** The measure of greatness of a teacher is his power to direct the impulses of his pupils. By this measure Cotner has had many successful teachers, foremost among them, Chancellor Emeritus Aylsworth. The great influence of this, "Cotner's grand old man," is due not only to a scholarship that makes his exposition final but to a character which interprets to each student in his presence the humble spirit of the Master Teacher.—Edith Burgess, '13.



Miss Grace E. Young

**GRACE E. YOUNG:** Why is she one of Cotner's best professors? This is a question that is best answered by the unique place she holds in the hearts of all, who have been in her classroom. Thorough knowledge, human sympathy and cheerfulness, all requisites of a

good teacher, are hers. She was always willing and able to give advice to those in her department.—Mabel McClintock, '13.

D. R. DUNGAN was a natural teacher, able to enforce the salient points in a lesson by apt illustration and to dispel the clouds of misconception and doubts with the sunshine of his wit and humor. He was exceptionally strong and at his best in teaching the Holy Scriptures and kindred subjects. His students could truly say of him that "he opened their minds that they might understand the Scriptures." Many students are indebted to him for a clear and comprehensive knowledge of the Bible and for a vital faith in the Son of God, but none can repay him. He was positive and constructive and if he had doubts and theories he never taught them.—L. P. Bush, '95.

S. A. HOOVER: Cotner University is proud to mention the name of S. A. Hoover as one of her leading science teachers. He was an educator of no mean ability. He will be remembered because he was a broad-minded Christian scholar and a man of culture. He was a great lover of science and to its investigation, gave his life but he never lost faith in a Creator nor in the religion of Christ. He was indeed a great man; to know him was to love and honor him.—J. H. Bicknell, '93.

Many other names might be added to this list of teachers chosen by the committee. Professor A. M. Chamberlain, a member of Cotner's first faculty, although remaining for only two years, was a teacher of rare ability. Miss Ellen B. Atwater, one of Cotner's first graduates, was later one of her best teachers. Professor J. F. Woolery deserves special mention; Professor Bert Wilson was a powerful man in his classroom; William M. Reeves has given Cotner almost twenty years of splendid service proving himself a mathematician of exceptional ability.

A few words must now be written about the men, who have acted as president or chancellor of Cotner University. David R. Dungan was Cotner's first president. In the year 1890, when the first head was chosen, the Board of Trustees could have found no man, who could have brought more real support to the school than D. R. Dungan. For twenty-five years in Nebraska, he had labored as evangelist for the Christian church, many churches having been organized by him. Not only was he known in Nebraska but was prominent among the leading men in the Christian church in the United States. He was known as a great teacher of the Bible, which drew many interested students to Cotner. While Cotner was in the making, a man of this character gave the new school prestige among the Christian churches and over the country in general.<sup>1</sup>

The next chancellor, beginning his work in 1896, was W. P. Aylsworth. He was not to give to the school prestige or a place among colleges, but to save that which had already been gained. Cotner found in him a man, deliberate in action, firm in purpose and devoted to his task. As the past is reviewed, all instinctively feel that he was pre-eminently the man to lead Cotner University out of the years of financial depression. Chancellor Aylsworth was not a man to launch out into big, new fields, but rather the one to lay a good foundation and upon it, to build cautiously and carefully.

The last chancellor was William Oeschger, who began his work in September, 1910. It was his task to take Cotner after it had escaped from the snare of a financial crisis and create around it an educational con-

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<sup>1</sup>During the year 1893 the Board of Trustees adopted a dual head-ship plan for Cotner. The two offices were called president and chancellor. A. E. Jennings was chancellor for one year. We have not included special mention of his name among the leaders of the school because of the short time of service and no far-reaching result was accomplished.

sciousness which would make possible a great university. The Christian church and school must be bound together and the Christian church colleges must clasp hands in a common cause. During the administration of Chancellor Oeschger this task has been accomplished. The churches and colleges of the Christian church are working in unison, shoulder to shoulder in a common cause in the form of the Men and Millions movement.

Cotner was given a place in the educational world by D. R. Dungan; was led safely through the dark years and given a strong structure or frame-work by W. P. Aylsworth; an educational consciousness or mass formation has been attained by William Oeschger and now Cotner is ready to enter into the field of great universities. Each of these men, as chancellor, has accomplished the task circumstances imposed upon him in an admirable way.

The character and quality of the faculty have been delineated. The teacher is greater than his subject because of the life touch which he gives to it; yet the subject matter too, is important. Attention should therefore be turned to the faculty at work.

At its beginning, Cotner University offered four courses of study in the College of Arts, viz: Classical, Modern Classic, Scientific and Biblical. The title of each course in itself indicates the line of study upon which the greatest stress was laid a preference, however, was allowed the student for, "courses of study have been so arranged as to make ample provision for individual choice of lines of investigation and scholarship, affording in each case opportunity for liberal culture and opening the way for special and technical training by means of elective studies and special courses."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Annual catalogue of Cotner University 1889-90, pp. 22.



In the year 1896, a fifth course was added leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree with special emphasis placed upon the normal work.

To meet the demands of a growing system of education, the courses of study were reorganized in 1898. The original classical courses were still retained for those desiring special work in Greek and Latin. The Biblical course was from this time on, known as the Sacred Literature course. For those intending to teach in the public schools the Normal Philosophical course was outlined. A course providing for the general need of the student was arranged under the name Philosophical course. Later the name of the Normal Philosophical course was changed to the Collegiate Normal. The school year was divided into three terms. Two hundred and five hours were required for graduation.

With the year 1913, a change was made with respect to the length of class periods and amount of work to be completed before graduation. The system growing out of this change is the one in use at present. Prior to this time the term system had given place to the semester plan as a means of dividing the school year. From the beginning of Cotner University the recitation period had been changed from thirty to forty-five minutes and lastly to fifty-five minutes in length. One hundred and thirty hours were required for graduation. "To enter the freshman year a candidate must present thirty (one hundred fifty hours) high school or academy credits divided in the following manner:

English .....	4 credits
History (European) .....	2 credits
Foreign Language .....	6 credits
Mathematics .....	5 credits
Laboratory Science .....	2 credits
Elective Subjects .....	11 credits

The program outlined for the student preparatory to graduation from the College of Arts is as follows:

A. Retic	4 hours
Physical Training	2 hours
Psychology	3 hours
Ethics	4 hours
New Testament History	6 hours
Christian Evidences	3 hours
Mother Tongue	10 hours
Foreign Language	10 hours
B. History	10 hours
Sociology or Economics	6 hours
Mathematics & Astronomy	10 hours
Physical Science	6 hours
Biological Science	6 hours
C. General Electives	54 or 58 hours

Each candidate for graduation is required to complete all the work under group A, and any four of the five divisions under group B. The latter must be completed by the end of the junior year. Not later than the beginning of the sophomore year, each student must select some one department in which he is to take a "major" of not less than twenty four hours and not more than forty hours.<sup>1</sup>

During the early years of Cotner University three degrees were granted, namely, Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Letters, and Bachelor of Science. In order to receive one of these degrees the faculty required one year of actual residence work in the university immediately preceding graduation. The other part of the required work could be done in a different school capable of doing creditable work, and the credits transferred.

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<sup>1</sup>Annual Bulletin of Cotner University, 1915, pp. 26.

In 1893, the degree, Bachelor of Letters was discontinued and in 1898 the Bachelor of Science degree was also done away with.

No effort has ever been made to build up a graduate school in Cotner, however, the Master's degree has been granted. The original plan was to award this degree to the individual, who had done one year's work in advance of a Bachelor of Arts degree or if he "had engaged successfully in some literary or professional calling for three years."<sup>1</sup> In either case the student was required to present a thesis "upon some line of special study or investigation."<sup>2</sup> In 1904 the work for a Master's degree was permitted to be done "largely in absentia." At present this policy has been discontinued and the faculty are very strict concerning work done in absentia. In reality the university authorities discourage graduate work.

Cotner has been somewhat lax in her method of granting degrees. Her greatest weakness is not in this respect, however, but may be found in the laxness allowed in the classroom.

The government of Cotner University is vested in the faculty. As a general principle they "regard the students as upright and honorable and treat them as such until their conduct proves the contrary. Good deportment, good morals and good habits are expected of all. The faculty assume that a generous confidence begets a generous response."<sup>3</sup> For continued misdemeanor in regard to study or habits, the student is subject to dismissal.

The authorities of Cotner have always expected students to attend Sunday services. Chapel exercises

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<sup>1</sup>Annual catalog of Cotner University 1889-'90, pp. 22.

<sup>2</sup>Annual catalog of Cotner University 1889-'90, pp. 22.

<sup>3</sup>Annual catalog of Cotner University 1903, pp. 53.

consisting of singing, reading of the Scriptures and prayer are held each day. During a part of Cotner's history chapel attendance has been compulsory but most of the time it has been left optional with the student but with the urgent request that he attend.

The following table gives the number of teachers in the Cotner faculty by years:

1889 six	1898 thirteen	1907 twenty-six
1890 eleven	1899 thirteen	1908 twenty-seven
1891 thirteen	1900 thirteen	1909 twenty-six
1892 thirteen	1901 sixteen	1910 twenty-seven
1893 fifteen	1902 nineteen	1911 thirty-two
1894 sixteen	1903 nineteen	1912 twenty-six
1895 thirteen	1904 twenty	1913 twenty-four
1896 sixteen	1905 twenty	1914 twenty-four
1897 eleven	1906 nineteen	1915 twenty-five

## CHAPTER XV

### Cotner's Departmental Schools

A university may be likened to a tree. The main part or trunk leads to the Bachelor of Arts degree. The branches of this tree are called departments. Besides the regular college courses leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree, Cotner has five departments which deserve special mention: music, commercial expression, normal and art.

Music is a succession of sounds that pleases the ear; it is real food for the soul. It is an art which cannot be mastered in a day or a month, but years are required to fathom its wonders.

Cotner University school of music was begun upon the same day that the university was opened for students. Mrs. W. P. Stearns was head of the department and instructor in instrumental music. She was assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Weber as instructors in violin and voice respectively. An excellent record was attained the first year. Out of a total enrollment of one hundred thirty-six for all branches, seventy-six took work in music.

Cotner has had many teachers of marked talent. The following table gives the instructors in instrumental music and voice from 1889 to 1916:

#### INSTRUMENTAL

Mrs. W. P. Stearns.....	1889-'91
Maud Robinson.....	1891-'93
May Z. Hughes.....	1893-'96
Mrs. H. T. Sutton.....	1896-'97
Mrs. F. L. Sumpter.....	1896-'97
Myrtle D. Hulfish.....	1897-'02
Lola Mix Sutton.....	1902-'07
Luella Henderson (Kechley).....	1902-'07

Gertrude Sumpter.....	1906-'10
Edna Wright (Carry).....	1907-'12
Maude Morrison (Murphy).....	1908-'11
Bess Berg (Brokaw).....	1910-'13
Capitola Stone.....	1913-'14
Edward S. Luce.....	1914

## VOCAL

Mrs. Adolph Weber.....	1889-'90
James E. Hawes.....	1892-'93
G. H. Walters.....	1893-'96
Mrs. Dr. Cotter.....	1896-'97
Charles R. Travis.....	1899-'01
Olive B. Jarvis.....	1903-'04
Vera Upton.....	1904-'05
Grace Trowbridge.....	1906-'07
Mrs. R. G. Aylsworth.....	1907-'10
John P. Mann.....	1910-'14
Alma F. Taylor.....	1911-'14
Elizabeth E. Luce.....	1914-

During the entire history of the Cotner School of Music 1546 students have been enrolled, the following being graduates of this department:

Mrs. W. J. Hanna.....'94	Elsie Bankson (Ellis)..'09
Katie Bedford.....'94	Mabel Avis (Perry)....'09
Gertrude Sumpter.....'97	Maude Morrison
Dilla Owings.....'96	(Murphy).....'09
Luella H. Kechley.....'00	Ruth Van Derzee.....'09
Grace Trowbridge.....'00	Alma Perrine.....'11
Mrs. Louise Bull.....'02	Grace Turner
Alma Taylor.....'02	(Murphy).....'11
Bertha Owings	Bess Fairley
Aydelott.....'02	(Workman).....'11
Helen Currie.....'02	Bessie Young.....'12
Edna Wright (Carry)..'07	Gertrude Bartlett (v)..'12
Carie Hubbard (Bash)'07	Leslie Strain (v).....'13

Ada Burton	Zella Grimm.....'14
(Parminter) ..... '13	Bertha Aydelott (v) ....'14
Hettie Turner	Clara Dill ..... '14
(Wilmeth) (v) ..... '14	Vera Anderson.....'15

In recent years several oratorios have been rendered with much credit, among which were Handel's "Messiah," Hayden's "Seasons" and the English grand opera "The Bohemian Girl" by Balfe. At present the department is managed upon a high plane of efficiency. A band, orchestra, ladies glee club and male glee club, are all maintained in addition to the regular work.

Music is manna for the aesthetic nature; it sets on fire the better self and awakens the spiritual life of man leading him into closer communion with God.

#### COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT

Shortly after the organization of Cotner University provisions were made for a business department. In 1890, a large number of students were enrolled in penmanship under Benjamin F. Stephens as instructor in that work. The reason for the establishment of a complete commercial school the next year is given in these words: "Frequent calls for instruction in short-hand, type-writing, penmanship, and other branches pertaining to a business education have led the Board of Trustees to offer a full business course and to assure competent instruction. While furnishing advantages of equal excellence, it will be remembered that these opportunities can be had at Cotner University at less cost than elsewhere while at the same time the student is enabled to enjoy many advantages and associations of the university not attained in a regular business college."<sup>1</sup>

During the next two years the work was limited, although twenty-six students took advantage of the opportunity offered the first year. The work was under

<sup>1</sup>Annual catalog of Cotner University 1891-92, pp. 23.

the direction of Prof. J. M. Howie until 1894, when G. H. Walters was made principal, which position he held for four years. During the school year of 1896 commercial work was not given on account of severe financial stress. In 1897, J. D. Austin, with Sigel Matson as assistant, directed the work of the department.

Commercial work was then eliminated for four years. A feeble attempt was made at reorganization in 1901, under the principalship of Miss Cora Bray, but failed on account of her resignation in a few months. The next year the Cotner Business School was organized and Prof. A. W. Osterhout elected as principal. The assistant instructors, associated with him at various times while he had charge of the department were, Elsie Adams (Lomax), Lillie Predmore, Edna Wright (Carry), Ena M. Sterling, C. E. Lemmon, Imogene M. Jacobs and E. R. Cornell. In 1909, a school of stenography was added under the direction of Prof. J. H. Walker.

During the summer of 1910 the business department was entirely reorganized under the name of Cotner Commercial College. Prof. Osterhout having resigned to take up other work in the university, Prof. Walker was elected to fill his place. Courses of study were rearranged and new ones added. More room was assigned to the department and modern equipment installed, including business offices, commercial desks, typewriters of the latest models, a writerpress, a dictation phonograph and an adding machine. The instructors during this year were J. H. Walker, L. D. Nation and A. G. Longman, A. B. Sixty-two student were enrolled. The year 1912 marked a steady progress which necessitated two additional rooms. Miss Nettie C. Gilmore was added to the commercial faculty.



It is needless to say that the Cotner commercial department was really incomparable with the past, because of the spacious rooms and modern equipment which it afforded. Never before had there been more than three teachers, now four were giving their time to the work. A splendid group of students was not only receiving a thorough commercial training but also enjoying the privileges, associations and culture of university life which a business college was unable to give. A large per cent of men who are to-day engaged in what is called "big business" are individuals of high Christian character. The young men and young women who receive a business education surrounded by the environment of a Christian university have a much greater chance of attaining success.

L. D. Nation resigned in 1913 and his place was taken by Robert B. Lemmon, A. B. Fifty-four students were enrolled and a successful year finished. At the close of the year the commercial department was discontinued. It was, however, re-established in the fall of 1914 on a small basis and placed under the direction of Prof. P. F. Stevens. Seven students were enrolled in the department last year.

Six hundred eighty three students have been enrolled in the Cotner commercial department during its various years of existence. Many graduates have gone forth to fill successfully, positions in the commercial world.

#### EXPRESSION DEPARTMENT

One of the attributes which distinguishes man from the animal world is the power of speech. Knowledge is wonderful but the ability to transmit knowledge is even more wonderful. Men of all ages have sought to develop the art we call, oratory. When the age of universities dawned it became a part of their program. So it is and so it ever will be; the gift of oratory is diligently sought.

Cotner's School of Eloquence had its origin in 1889. The first instructor was Miss H. Almena Parker. For the first few years the work of this department was carried on in the city of Lincoln. Time is required to perfect a business corporation or a manufactory; thus it is with a university, it takes time to develop all of its varied interests. But Cotner grew steadily, new faculty members and new courses of study were added each year. Hand in hand with this general development went the expression department.

Those who have had charge of this work as instructors are:

H. Almena Parker.....	1889-'92
Mrs. Emma O. Gregg.....	1892-'93
H. T. Sutton.....	1896-'97
Lethenia E. Watson.....	1897-'02
Miss Nellie Painter.....	1893-'96
H. T. Sutton.....	1902-'07
Ita E. Casey.....	1907-'09
Mattie Russell.....	1909-'10
Frances Miller.....	1910-'11
B. F. Shock (1st semester).....	1911-'12
Edith Anderson.....	1912-'13
Marguerite Van Deventer.....	1913-'14
Norma Jeffries.....	1914-'15
Leon R. Snyder.....	1915-

Throughout Cotner's history much interest has been taken in oratory, dramatics and public speaking. For a number of years declamatory contests were offered under the direction of the expression department. Public recitals have always been given an important place in the work. In the field of dramatics a number of plays of merit have been given. Prof. H. T. Sutton staged a wonderful production of his own composition entitled "Judas." Two Shakespearian plays "Merchant of Venice" and "Hamlet" were directed by Miss Casey. "Our Alma Mater" and "The Cricket on the Hearth"

were coached by Miss Russell and Miss Miller respectively.

Upon the completion of three years work, the department grants the Bachelor of Expression degree and for an additional year the Bachelor of Oratory. Those having received degrees are as follows:

Lucy Cone.....	'97	Ford Ellis.....	'09
Elmira M. Wood.....	'00	Bert Wilson.....	'09
Hannah Bell Morphet..	'00	Besse Van Buskirk.....	'10
Clyde Cordner .....	'08	Hannah Jacobson.....	'10
James Beem.....	'08	Leon A. Moomaw.....	'10

Each person must render an evening's program as one of the requirements for graduation. Several monologues have been given. Clyde Cordner receiving the B. E. degree in '08 and the B. O. in '11, presented "The Christmas Carol" and "The Message from Mars." James Beem gave a strong rendition of "Seven Oaks." Ford Ellis presented "The Crisis" and Bert Wilson, "The Singular Life." Ralph Connor's "Prospector" was the basis for a monologue given by Leon A. Moomaw in 1910.

At present, at least four years of work are required for the B. O. degree. The candidate must have satisfactorily completed a four year high school course. Those in charge of the department realize, however, that a degree should be conferred only when efficiency is attained rather than upon the completion of a certain amount of work.

#### COTNER NORMAL SCHOOL

In the prospectus of Cotner University a special three year course for teachers was announced. Those who outlined the scope of the work realized that they were living in an ever changing age, that those who were engaged in teaching, that is, the dissemination of knowledge, must be constantly reviewing and acquiring new knowledge in order to keep abreast with the

practical side. The normal work at Cotner was, in the beginning, quite meager. Prof. E. D. Harris, designated as instructor in preparatory and normal studies, and A. J. Reynolds, A. M., pedagogy, were the first to have charge of this work. The course was outlined with the view of meeting the needs of two groups. For those who desired review work, it was arranged to provide for any elementary branch when as many as eight or ten were to be benefited. To those working toward a certificate, a three year course was offered. In the early years no effort was made to give the specific principles and methods of education. Prof. Harris closed his work with the normal department in the year 1894. No one was elected to take his place and for the next six years but little definite work was done although indirectly some normal branches were taught.

In 1901, the normal department was revived under the leadership of Charles S. Jones. It was completely reorganized and Prof. Jones was made dean of the department. A preparatory normal course was offered which was designed to give a thorough review or preparation for taking the regular three year course of advanced work which contained all the branches requisite for a state certificate.

Upon the resignation of Prof. Jones before the close of his year's work, Mrs. Josie Y. Osterhout was elected principal of the normal department and began her work in the fall of 1902. An advance step was made in the method of teaching. In addition to the theoretical courses a practice school was maintained a part of each year. Mrs. Osterhout remained at the head of this work for four years when Dr. J. A. Beattie became principal of the normal school and Mrs. Osterhout assistant principal. Advancement was being made each year, more stress being placed upon the

exalted work of the teacher, the principles underlying the process of education and the methods of work. Upon the satisfactory completion of the normal course offered, Cotner University was permitted to grant the First Grade State Certificate. When a holder of such certificate had completed three years of successful teaching, a life certificate could be secured. Through the efforts of Prof. Beattie a splendid educational library was received as a gift from Abram Teachout, a wealthy business man of Ohio and "one of the best friends Hiram College ever had."

In 1912, another change was made and R. L. Hoff, A. B., became the head of the department of education. Under the supervision of Prof. Hoff, the department was modernized. In every phase of its work it met the requirements of the State Department of Education. After three years of efficient service, Prof. Hoff resigned to be succeeded by Mrs. Thomas, wife of State Superintendent A. O. Thomas.

As one reviews the history of the normal department of Cotner university in the light of present day educational methods, there are many imperfections to be seen. However, it is not difficult to find imperfections in viewing any past system. During the years when Cotner was struggling with educational problems, the whole system was in the making. Cotner's work has always been based upon the standard set by the Nebraska state normals and has received the hearty endorsement of the state superintendent. In 1890, A. K. Goudy, Superintendent of Public Instruction, says, "I have been able to examine your proposed course of study for the normal department of the university and while this has been examined rather hurriedly I am certainly safe in saying that it meets my approval and I am glad to know of another agency

whereby those preparing to teach in the public schools of the state may be better fitted for their work." Sixteen years later the statement of Superintendent J. L. McBrien indicates the good standing of the normal department. "I am pleased to note that, beginning with the coming session of Cotner University, opening September 10, 1906, it is the purpose of the management to establish a department of education in compliance with the requirements of law permitting the college to grant grade and professional certificates. Having gone over this matter, and believing your course of study, equipment and faculty meet the requirements of the statute for the recognition of your institution on the same basis as state normal schools and also upon the same basis as the state university, it gives me pleasure to give recognition to your institution on both these lines on and after September 10, 1906" In recent years under the efficient leadership of Prof. Hoff and Mrs. Thomas the work has met the approval of the state department in every way. The real test of ability is not in the course of study but to "making good" in the school room. Cotner teachers are satisfying the demand.

A few words concerning Cotner's Art Department should be given although it did not have its beginning with the first year of school nor has it been a complete department each year since its inauguration.

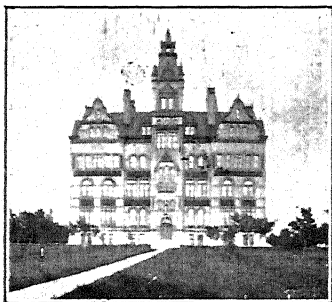
Miss Lulu Murphy was the first instructor in the art department, in the year 1890. Anna Reba Drummond, Lucy Cone Waggoner, Professor H. H. Bagg, Mabel Davies Tookey, Mrs. R. L. Hoff and Mrs. Ida Bennett have been succeeding teachers.

Professor Bagg is an instructor of rare ability in crayon, water color and oil painting. He has been connected with the art department of Cotner longer than any other teacher and is therefore deserving of special mention.

## CHAPTER XVI

### Outside of Books at Cotner

When the years have passed and the wrinkles are furrowing the brow, just a little, and when there is a silvery tint to the hair, we shall all pause and think of the days of youth, and decide that college days were among the happiest and the best. Those days will stand out in our memory as does Demosthenes or Cicero in the world of oratory.



Cotner University

While we shall have forgotten much that we learned in the classroom, we shall never forget that oratorical contest or debate, in which we dreamed of first place but received nearer the last, in which we anticipated hearing the students cheer with

What's the matter with \_\_\_\_\_

He's all right.

Who's all right?

\_\_\_\_\_  
Three cheers!

And then there bursts upon the air another sound :

White and blue, white and blue,  
What's the matter with old C. U.?  
Blue and white, blue and white,  
Cotner Uni. ; she's all right.

But perhaps we joined with the students in the cheer for the other fellow.

The aim of a university is to produce a symmetrical man. To meet this standard an individual must be a disburser of knowledge as well as a possessor of it. In other words emphasis must be placed upon the ability to acquire knowledge or scholarship, and also the ability to impart it or in other words. public speaking. An ability to appear well before an audience is acquired in many ways. One of the most effective is in oratorical and debating societies.

Cotner Oratorical Association was organized during the school year of 1890-'91. It had for its purpose the holding of oratorical and declamatory contests. Soon, Cotner's organization became a member of the state association. "During this period the State University was a member of the association. It seems that it was a foregone conclusion that this school would win every contest. It was openly stated that it would not be at all fitting that a large and substantial institution like the State University should be defeated by some denominational college, so no matter how strong the other speakers might be, the best they could hope for was second place. This was a source of much irritation to the smaller schools and many fierce combats were waged in the business meetings to secure fair play. In 1894 the annual convention was held in the chanel at Cotner. All the afternoon the conflict raged. Cotner and the State were the principals and late in the afternoon Cotner won out. But that night in the contest although Finch clearly outdid them all, Cotner was compelled to take second place. This seemed to be the



last straw. A year later Cotner withdrew from the association. The other schools did likewise, leaving the State University alone in her glory. Later a new state association was formed with a clause in the constitution debarring technical and professional schools. As the State depended almost wholly upon the embryonic politicians in her law-school for her success, she of course did not enter the new association." For several years Cotner was not a member of the new organization. These were the dark years when even her existence was doubtful.

During the later years the workings of the State Association have been peaceful and harmonious. Cotner has almost always been represented in the state contest. Hugh Lomax has the honor, however, of being the only Cotner representative who has ever won first place. Miss Alice Gadd (now Mrs. A. D. Harmon) is the only Cotner lady who has the distinction of having represented her school in a state contest of any kind. During the last few years much more interest has been manifested in debating than in oratory.

A list of Cotner representatives in the state contest are:

1891 J. H. Bicknell	1906 A. J. Hollingsworth
1892 A. D. Harmon	1907 Howard Britt
1893 Alice Gadd-Harmon	1908 John G. Alber
1894 C. A. Finch	1909 Clyde Cordner
1895 R. K. Beattie	1910 John G. Alber
1900 C. A. Sias	1911 C. E. Lemmon
1901 Hugh Lomax	1912 L. D. Christy
1902 W. L. Mellinger	1913 R. C. Dady
1903 W. L. Mellinger	1914 Orville Johnson
1904 F. G. Hamm	1915 P. B. Cope
1905 Hugh Lomax	1916 Orville Johnson

Another associatoin which has given an opportunity

for the development of oratory and for inter-collegiate rivalry is the Inter-collegiate Prohibition Association. The object of the I. P. A. is to hold regular meetings in which debates, addresses, lectures and study classes are held in order to disseminate knowledge upon this great problem of the liquor traffic. A national association is maintained with headquarters at Chicago. Eight or ten men known as national secretaries are devoting their whole time to organizing and lecturing in the colleges and universities of the United States. There are now associations in over two hundred schools.

As a part of its work it maintains an oratorical contest. Four series of contests are held, the local, state, interstate and national. The following colleges are in the Nebraska association: Hastings College, Hastings; Wesleyan University, University Place; Bellevue College, Bellevue; Central College, Central City; Grand Island College, Grand Island; York College, York; State University, Lincoln: Cotner University, Bethany; Omaha Theological Seminary, Omaha; Doane College, Crete; Luther Academy, Wahoo.

In the central interstate contest the following states are represented: Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Texas.

In this field of oratory Cotner has won special prominence. The following are the Cotner orators and the place won in the state contest:

1904	Hugh Lomax .....	First
1905	A. J. Hollingsworth.....	
1906	Clyde Cordner .....	
1907	John G. Alber.....	First
1908	Ford Ellis.....	First
1909	Clarence Lemmon.....	Third
1910	Clyde Cordner .....	First
1911	Leon A. Moomaw.....	First

1912	C. H. Thomson.....	Third
1913	No representative.....	
1914	Carl PerLee.....	Second
1915	No representative.....	
1916	No representative.....	

### Debating

The Excelsior Debating Section was the name of a society organized in 1903. J. G. Pitts was its president; Floyd Bash, vice-president, and Elsie Adams Lomax, secretary-treasurer. This society held private meetings, except where a member brought an invited guest. A strict constitution was adopted by which the membership was limited in numbers. "None but workers are wanted, and by the constitution they are the only ones that can long remain in the society" was the intention of those perfecting the organization. This debating club did not last long, however.

Upon November 2, 1906, a mass meeting of all interested students was called which resulted in a new society in the university known as "Cotner Debating Club." It had for its object a double purpose: first, to hold weekly meetings at which time various issues of the day might be debated; second, to encourage and arrange for inter-collegiate debates. During the first year much interest was shown in the weekly meetings. Since that time a regular class has been maintained in debating under the direction of a debating coach for which college credit has been given. This has taken the place of the weekly meetings.

Since the organization of the Cotner Debating Club twenty-six inter-collegiate debates have been held. Out of this number the "White and Blue" has carried away eighteen victories and only eight defeats.

Cotner's first inter-collegiate debate was held in

March, 1907, with Christian University, Canton, Missouri. The question for debate was concerning our governmental policy in the Philippine Islands. Cotner's team defended the government in its present policy but were unable to convince the judges that they were right. The debaters were Clarence Alvord, E. M. Johnson and E. H. Longman.

A history of Cotner's debating record would be incomplete without a word of commendation concerning H. O. Pritchard, who was for six years the debating coach. Mr. Pritchard is a scholar, having received his B. D. degree from Yale in 1906. While in Yale he had laid special emphasis upon inter-collegiate debates. Mr. Pritchard developed in the student an analytical mind, an argumentative style, and an ability to form a logical conclusion. Perhaps no individual, aside from regular faculty members has done more to develop the student's mind, paving the way for success than H. O. Pritchard. The system of debate which he inaugurated coupled with determination on the part of the debaters has given Cotner a high standing in inter-collegiate circles.

In 1908, Cotner arranged a triangular debate with Bellevue College at Bellevue and Doane College at Crete. Each of the three schools have two teams, one on each side of the question. Three debates take place the same evening, one at each school. This triangular debate is still held each year. For six years the annual debate was held with Canton, Missouri, but was then abandoned because of the long distance and expense involved. For the past two years Cotner and Nebraska Wesleyan have met in the debating arena.

The names of the Cotner debaters, the question discussed and the decisions rendered will be given according to the year in which the debate was held:

Opponent	Cotner Debaters	Questions
Canton	A. W. Rethmeyer	Resolved, That the federal government should have exclusive control of all corporations doing an interstate business.
	Ray E. Hunt	
	Chas. E. Cobbey	
Doane	A. W. Rethmeyer	
	L. A. Moomaw	
	Chas. E. Cobbey	
Bellevue	B. F. Lively	
	Ray E. Hunt	
	Bert Wilson	

1909

Canton	Bert Wilson	Won
	Ray E. Hunt	
	Chas. E. Cobbey	
Doane	Bert Wilson	Postal savings bank. Won
	C. E. Lemmon	
	Floyd Bash	
Bellevue	Ray E. Hunt	Lost
	Dan C. Troxel	
	Chas. E. Cobbey	

1910

Canton	C. E. Lemmon	Won
	Dan C. Troxel	
	Leroy Watson	
Bellevue	Frank Woten	Commission plan of City Government Lost
	Dan C. Troxel	
	L. A. Moomaw	
Doane	C. E. Lemmon	Won
	Leroy Watson	
	O. H. Loomis	

Opponent	Cotner Debaters	Questions
1911		
Canton	C. E. Lemmon	Lost
	Dan C. Troxel	
	L. A. Moomaw	
Bellevue	Carl Knapp	Won
	W. C. Radcliff	
	Clarence Miles	
Doane	C. E. Lemmon	Won
	Dan C. Troxel	
	L. A. Moomaw	
1912		
Canton	Rodney McQuary	Won
	C. E. Lemmon	
	P. B. Cope	
Bellevue	E. N. Griggs	Won
	Dan C. Troxel	
	R. C. Dady	
Doane	Rodney McQuary	Won
	C. E. Lemmon	
	P. B. Cope	
1913		
Doane	C. E. Lemmon	Won
	R. C. Dady	
	C. H. Thomson	
Bellevue	P. B. Cope	Won
	E. N. Griggs	
	C. E. Per Lee	

Resolved, That our  
legislation should be  
shaped toward the  
abandonment of the  
protective tariff.

Resolved, That all  
judges, other than  
the federal, should  
be subject to the re-  
call.

Resolved, That the  
trusts should be reg-  
ulated rather than  
be prohibited.

Opponent Cotner Debaters		Questions
1914		
Bellevue	{ Orville Johnson	Lost
	{ Elmer Strain	
	{ Carl Per Lee	
Doane	{ Luther Cobbey	Won
	{ Ernest Molloy	
	{ P. B. Cope	
Single-tax.		
1915		
Doane	{ Elmer Strain	Won
	{ L. A. Brumbaugh	
	{ E. E. Briggs	
Bellevue	{ Lawrence Dry	Won
	{ P. B. Cope	
	{ O. E. Johnson	
Wesleyan	{ P. B. Cope	Won
	{ Lawrence Dry	
	{ O. E. Johnson	
1916		
Doane	{ O. E. Johnson	Lost
	{ Glenn McRae	
	{ Paul Kennedy	
Bellevue	{ Garland Nichols	Lost
	{ Alonzo Knight	
	{ L. A. Brumbaugh	
Wesleyan	{ Glenn McRae	Lost
	{ L. A. Brumbaugh	
	{ O. E. Johnson	
Resolved, That the United States should immediately and substantially increase her armament.		

**Y. M. and Y. W. C. A.**

Many of the pleasant hours spent in college cluster about the Young Men's or Young Women's Christian Association. It is such organizations that drive away the loneliness that comes to the new student, who has left the old home. These two associations as world-wide movements have, from the beginning, been strong factors in elevating the ideals and strengthening the righteous purposes in the lives of young people. Happy is the young man or woman, who has come within the influence of the city or student association.

The young women of Cotner University have been exceedingly fortunate in having the privilege of being identified with this great movement, for it has been a part of the school during almost the whole of its life. While school was yet being held in the dormitory, a state secretary came to organize a Young Women's Christian Association among the girls. Progress was made but slowly, however, until Miss Ada Barnes, then tri-state secretary, visited the Cotner association, lending help and encouragement and imparting a real missionary message. Much credit for the Lincoln city association is due to Cotner, for Miss Alice Gadd (Harmon) assisted Miss Barnes in that work in the spring of 1892. The work of the Cotner association advanced; excellent prayer meetings were held; earnest Bible study classes carried on and a wholesome social life prevailed. So strongly is the influence of this association felt that one mother among the alumni feels it in her heart to say "one of the beckoning hands bidding us bring our children to Cotner is the Y. W. C. A.."

Some of the presidents of the Y. W. C. A. between the years 1890 to 1897 were Misses Alice Gadd, Addie Harris, Grace Young and Hannah Morphet. During the dark financial days, the Y. W. C. A. together with



most of the other organizations passed out of existence.

There was a substantial revival of the association in 1902. In room seventeen a group of girls came together in the fall of that year and an organization was perfected with Miss Mollie Enyart (Armstrong) as president. Soon every girl in the college, save three, were enlisted as members. The general conference of the Y. W. C. A. was then held at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Miss Lucile Ford was the first Cotner girl to attend this conference. The girls acting as president of the Cotner Y. W. succeeding Miss Enyart were:

Lillie Brunell Turner.....	1903-'04
Lucile Ford. ....	1904-'06
Donna Enyart.....	1906-'07
Lura Armstrong.....	1907-'08
Ada Bash (Hunt).....	1908-'09
Wenona Wilkinson.....	1909-'10
Ethel Ranney (Wilmot).....	1910-'11
Minnie Young (Moomaw)...	1911-'12
Mabel Cutter (Packer).....	1912-'13
Ruth Dixon.....	1913-'14
Flossie Strain.....	1914-'15
Dale Ellis.....	1915-'16
Alletta Brokaw.....	1916

The work of the Cotner Y. W. C. A. has grown consistently during all these years. Weekly prayer meetings have been held at which time some important topic pertaining to the practical side of life has been discussed by the girls in general, or a special speaker has brought an inspiring message.

The work of the local association has been delegated to various committees, with a competent girl as leader of each. Every member of the association is placed upon one of these different committees and thus becomes acquainted with the numerous departments of the work. Miss Grace E. Young has for many years

been the advisory member from the faculty to the Cotner association and has been an invaluable aid to the progress of the work.

The western students' conference is now held each year at Estes Park, Colorado. The inspiration of such a conference cannot but have a lasting impression upon the life of everyone who attends. The Y. W. C. A. has its own peculiar place in the college life of every girl and its influence does not end with college days.

The history of Cotner Y. M. C. A. is very similar to that of the Y. W. C. A. The men have been equally fortunate in being identified with a great movement. The plan of work of the two associations is practically the same. The summer conferences were held at the same place only at different times of the year, first at Lake Geneva, then at Cascade and now at Estes Park, Colorado. During the very early days Cotner Y. M. was launched. Records of those days have not been kept but it seems the most earnest worker for the association was C. C. Drummond, now a missionary in India.

As was true of almost every college organization the Y. M. ceased, during the years of financial depression at Cotner University. In 1900 the work was reorganized with Hugh Lomax as president. The membership was small, yet meetings were held every Sunday afternoon and many young men look back upon these as days of pleasure and profit. Many of those who have gone from Cotner's halls point to the Y. M. as a powerful factor in their lives. Some of the presidents which persons have been able to recall, for no records exist, are, R. Lyle Finch, Roy Young, Cleveland Kleihauer, Ray Murphy, Ernest Parminter, H. E. Neibling, J. H. Walker, Henry Hanner, P. B. Cope, O. E. Johnson, Winters Funck and Glenn McRae.

### Cotner Athletics

In a retrospection of Cotner athletics we could not tell of all the victories if we would and would not tell of all the defeats if we could. In the early nineties, athletics did not play as prominent a part in college activities as in the present period, therefore, Cotner was not as active in that line. Yet it is known that we were not asleep, for in 1893 the Cotner football team defeated Wesleyan with a score of 20 to 0. It seems rather humorous to-day to think of Lyle Finch, H. C. Armstrong, E. H. Longman, Leslie Lodwig and Roy Lucas in connection with Cotner athletic teams, yet they used to perform that function in a commendable way.

Among the names of baseball players of prominence in recent years in their respective positions, the following are found:

Pitchers—Parminter, Ling, Carrothers, Pirtle, Ford, Newman and Streeter.

Catchers—Louis Ogden, Everett Ling, Shagool and Dry.

Basemen—Ritchey, Troxel, Ray Murphy, Harry Murphy, Guy Emery, Jester, Elmer Strain.

Short Stop—Miles, Strain (Elmer), Shagool and Thomas.

Field—Joe Smith, Ben Ogden, Siddons, Adams, Black. Raver, McPherson and many others.

Basketball has not been prominent in Cotner for so many years. Cotner's greatest basketball team was in evidence in 1910 and 1911. The personnel of the team was: "Happy" Aspinwall, center, "Mc" McCullough, "Ben" Ogden, guards; "Pid" Parminter, "Lefty" Siddons, forwards.

In 1910, not only did Cotner win the State Collegiate championship by winning every game, but won it by a two to one score, Cotner's total score for the season being 445 to 191 for her opponents.

## SCORE FOR 1910

Cotner.....	36	Peru .....	18
Cotner.....	51	York .....	10
Cotner.....	48	Tarkio .....	12
Cotner.....	28	Highland Park.....	26
Cotner.....	42	Hastings .....	19
Cotner.....	66	Kearney .....	17
Cotner.....	26	State University.....	22
Cotner.....	43	York .....	12
Cotner.....	30	Highland Park .....	16
Cotner.....	36	Peru .....	15
Cotner.....	39	Tabor, Iowa.....	23

In 1911 not only was the Cotner team victorious over the colleges of the state but proved themselves the undisputed champions of the Missouri Valley.

## BASKETBALL SCORE CARD FOR 1911

Cotner.....	33	Y. M. C. A., Lincoln....	31
Cotner.....	29	Omaha University.....	10
Cotner.....	45	Kearney .....	18
Cotner.....	35	Nebraska .....	17
Cotner.....	46	Highland Park .....	17
Cotner.....	43	York .....	16
Cotner.....	39	Doane .....	21
Cotner.....	30	South Dakota.....	17
Cotner.....	35	Kearney .....	16
Cotner.....	35	Kansas .....	26
Cotner.....	65	Peru .....	15
Cotner.....	14	Highland Park .....	15
Cotner.....	14	Omaha University .....	16
Cotner.....	25	Peru .....	20
Cotner.....	48	York .....	24

Good basketball players have been on Cotner's floor since the famous quintette. Ed. Britt, Avery Morton, Glen Leavitt, Rollin Squires, Elmer Strain, John Sha-gool and many others have upheld Cotner's colors in an admirable manner.

The 1916 basketball players were Clyde Darner, Lee

Neuman, Francis Knapple, Paul Britt, Ted Strain,  
Frank Brokaw, Paul Thomas and Earl Parminter.

## SEASON'S RECORD

Cotner.....	38	Old Stars.....	4
Cotner.....	25	Old Stars.....	13
Cotner.....	30	Tarkio.....	25
Cotner.....	38	Omaha.....	11
Cotner.....	16	Peru.....	39
Cotner.....	21	Tarkio.....	19
Cotner.....	28	Omaha.....	8
Cotner.....	11	Wesleyan.....	39
Cotner.....	12	Peru.....	7
Cotner.....	19	Wesleyan.....	38
Cotner.....	19	Grand Island.....	19
Cotner.....	19	York.....	21
Cotner.....	25	Kearney.....	19
Cotner.....	23	Hastings.....	16
Cotner.....	17	York.....	16
Cotner.....	12	Grand Island.....	18
Cotner.....	22	Kearney.....	29
Cotner.....	23	Hastings.....	10

In football Cotner has never had a winning team in every game but has held her own against schools of her size. The score cards for the years 1913 and 1915 are representative of the work done.

## 1913

Cotner.....	7	Doane.....	14
Cotner.....	0	Bellevue.....	0
Cotner.....	0	Wesleyan.....	48
Cotner.....	5	Omaha University.....	6
Cotner.....	14	Kearney.....	10
Cotner.....	54	Peru.....	0
Cotner.....	56	Hastings.....	0

## 1915

Cotner.....	13	Bellevue.....	2
Cotner.....	9	Kearney.....	33
Cotner.....	0	Doane.....	12

Cotner.....	7	Omaha .....	0
Cotner.....	0	Hastings .....	39
Cotner.....	27	York .....	27

### Literary Societies at Cotner

The first literary society known to Cotner was the Christian Rhetorical which began in 1889. The C. P. Society was born to live but one year for it ceased to exist in June, 1890. J. H. Bicknell was the first president. The officers for the second semester of that year were S. A. Groat, president; L. P. Bush, vice-president; Miss Groat, secretary, and Charles Hazelrigg, treasurer. During the winter of the first year at Cotner a Bible society was formed with Dr. Aylsworth as its promoter. The inception took place in the dining room of the present dormitory, and the name was Mathesian, meaning "disciples" or "learners." It was fundamentally a Bible society, a part of every program was the reading of the Scriptures, prayer and a sermon by a member of the society. The following is an exact copy of a literary program given at Cotner's first commencement:

Programme of the C. R. and Mathesian Societies of  
Cotner University, Lincoln, June 18, 1890

Vocal Solo.....Mrs. Weber

Invocation.....Prof. W. P. Aylsworth

Oration, "The Puritan and the Cavalier".....

.....J. H. Bicknell, Bloomington, Indiana

Recitation, "The Legend of the Organ Builder"....

.....Miss Grace Martin, McCook, Nebraska

Violin Solo.....Prof. Weber

Criticism, "The Book of Hebrews".....

.....Miss Alice Gadd, Bethany Heights, Nebraska

Recitation, "Mucklittles Boy".....

.....Miss Effie Hale, Craig, Nebraska

Piano Solo.....Miss Culbertson

Essay, "American Women".....	Miss Blanch Gregory
Oration, "The Impending Crisis".....	.....
.....	William Oeschger, Valparaiso, Nebraska
Vocal Solo.....	Mrs. Weber

During the second year of school there was a desire for a purely literary society. A very unique method was adopted for the starting of two organizations. The names of six students were placed in a hat and drawn out, forming two committees of three each. Arthur Munson, William Oeschger and Alice Gadd were the committee to canvass the students to secure members of a new society to be called the Delphian. J. H. Bicknell, R. W. Abberley and F. L. Sumpter were to act in the same capacity but their society was known as the Athenian society. These organizations flourished until the crisis of the nineties.

A little of the humorous side of society life creeps into a letter written by Mrs. Alice Gadd-Harmon about literary societies. The students of older days will understand, while those of recent years can do as she says, "ask your chancellor, registrar or Dr. Aylsworth about a certain literary organization that "died young." "I was a charter member of everything but the Athenian society. That was a very inferior society 'in the beginning.' All the talent belonged to the Delphian society. But many warring members made trouble so the best, brainiest Delphians brought into existence an organization that would have won fame, honor and reputation for the school but the blind faculty 'saw it not' so the infant died. All this combined brain went into the Athenian society and it grew in numbers and wisdom from that hour. It was in the early days of our literary societies that your chancellor (Oeschger) used to have the 'goddess of Liberty dance her golden slipper off' twice every meeting."

The Mathesian Literary society is the only organ-

ization of any kind that stood the test of the crisis years, having been organized during the first year of Cotner's history and at present has its weekly meetings every Friday night. It is not now a Bible society as in the beginning but a purely literary organization. The first officers were R. W. Abberley, president; H. G. Wilkinson, vice-president; Miss Gregory, secretary, and William Oeschger, treasurer. The second year William Oeschger was elected president. During the early years a list of the officers was not available but the records have been preserved since 1906:

President	Secretary
Donna Enyart.....	
G. C. Aydelott.....	Floyd Bash
E. M. Johnson.....	Elsie Bankson
C. W. Longman.....	Mable Davies
Ed. Kechley.....	Chloe Dill
Bert Wilson.....	Lura Armstrong
Leroy Watson.....	Elsie Morton
Thomas Perry.....	Maude Morrison
Robert Lemmon.....	Vera Moomaw
Leon Moomaw.....	Mary Hilton
Mary Hilton.....	Harry Weekly
Avery Morton.....	Gertrude Baldwin
C. H. Thompson.....	Ruth Dixon
Nelle Gingles.....	Elmer Strain
Lela Witham.....	Frank Hanner
Elmer Strain.....	Cleo Dixon
Pearl Swartwood.....	Lennie Brumbaugh
Harry Weekly.....	Dale Ellis
Floss Strain.....	Everett Ward
L. A. Brumbaugh.....	Celia Elliot

With the death of the Athenian and Delphian societies in 1896, a new society was born in the spring of 1897. This received the cognomen, Philomathian. After 1903 the presidents and secretaries were as follows:



Presidents	Secretaries
Roy Lucas.....	
E. E. Smith.....	Mabel Wilson
Hugh Lomax.....	Clara Aylsworth
Clara Aylsworth.....	Elmer Child
Kenneth Roland.....	Elsie Britt
Clare De Forest.....	John Alber
Austin Hollingsworth.....	Helen Demarest
Orville Johnson.....	Elsie Britt
J. E. Smith.....	Theodosia Camp
Elmer Child.....	Verna Holmes
H. L. Britt.....	Alma Perrine
Clarence Miles.....	Bess Kirk
O. H. Loomis.....	Ethel Ranney
Helen Demarest.....	Ernest Parminter
Homer Young.....	Florence Leavitt
Ethel Ranney.....	Rollin Squires
Dan Troxel.....	Madge Hill
J. M. Packer.....	Mabel McClintock
Clarence Lemmon.....	Hope Black
Ernest Molloy.....	Anna Oeschger
Harry Hill.....	Edna Ranney
Orville E. Johnson.....	Vera Anderson
Lawrence Dry.....	Bessie Adams
Charles Streeter.....	Ada McKinney
Glen McRae.....	Alletta Brokaw

The literary societies of Cotner have always existed for the purpose of advancing literary standards among her students. Individual students in preparation for the weekly programs have done research and original work which has been an invaluable aid to them in their later activities; ease and grace upon the platform have been acquired. In the early days the societies had regular meeting places as now. The present Philo Hall was then the Athenian Hall; the Mathesian, the Del-

phian, and the room now occupied by the Expression department was the Mathesian Hall.

At present there is an Athenian Literary society which was organized in 1911. Only Cotner Academy students are eligible to membership. Its object is the cultivation of literary ability and the development of public expression.

### **Sneak Day**

"Sneak Day" in the real sense of the word originated in the spring of 1903, when the college class of 1907 was yet the senior academy class. This was the largest class in school and noted for its vim and vigor. The rivalry in the school was between this class and the remaining student body.

The chief instigators in the planning of a picnic for the faculty and students, with the exception of the senior academy class, were Edward Clutter, Roy Lucas and E. J. Sias. Persuaded under manifestation of arms, Chancellor Aylsworth and most of the other faculty members followed in the wake of these leaders. On that early spring morning they did actually sneak away to Steven's Creek, leaving Miss Grace Young with a recitation class composed of members of the senior academy class, and those closely affiliated with it and Miss Willie Walker, a teacher with a class similarly composed, as the only ones to carry on school that day. But of course they didn't "keep" school. Hastily preparing a lunch, the undaunted group left behind repaired to the picnic grounds at the State Farm. The day was reported "delightfully spent" by each pleasure seeking group. The only cause for grief to those at the Steven's Creek grounds was the strange disappearance of three of the horses making up the teams, which conveyed the party to its pleasure resort. The alleged thieves of course were immediately suspected as being members of the State Farm picnicing party. It

did seem very likely that if Cleveland Kleihauer and E. M. Johnson were to be tried before the bar of justice, they would be found guilty.

From this brief sketch, we have a slight idea of what the first Sneak Day was like. Since 1903 there has been an annual gala day participated in by students and faculty alike, and has ever been one of the long to be remembered days of each year. The plans have been under the auspices of the senior class for each particular year, Steven's Creek being the place where with but few exceptions, the picnic has been held.

### **Things You Want to Know**

#### **THE UNIVERSITY SONG**

##### **Chorus**

For we are jolly students of Nebraska land;  
We've got the sand.  
Our colors, they are white and blue;  
And we belong to Cotner University. Rah, Rah, Rah,  
Where the students dare and do. (Repeat.)

You may talk about your colleges, fair Harvard and  
old Yale;  
And all the universities whose banners brave the gale.  
There's the azure flag of Cambridge and old Oxford's  
noble blue  
That wave in far off England over hearts both brave  
and true.  
From the sunny shores of Frisco up to distant Portland  
Maine;  
Away off to the Philippines and away back home again,  
There's no college, university or school can ever show  
So brave, so true, so great a crew of students as we  
know.

On a glorious morn with a victory won, there broke  
a glad refrain,

Into the world a school is born and Cotner is its name.  
Our colors float in grandeur over south, north, east and  
west,

Our graduates are widely known, their training's been  
the best,

And where the scenes of conflict rage, you'll find until  
the last,

Old Cotner's colors in the field, to meet the stormy  
blast.

And in the many countries where Old Glory comes to  
view,

We also mean to plant a stake for Cotner's white and  
blue.

#### THE UNIVERSITY YELLS

Cotner, Cotner, Cotner, the  
Cotner University  
Don't you see?

White and Blue, White and Blue,  
What's the matter with old C. U.?  
Blue and White, Blue and White,  
Cotner Uni, she's all right.

C. U. Rah Rah

C. U. Rah Rah

C. Rah U. Rah

C. U. Rah Rah

The University Colors—Blue and White

## CHAPTER XVII

### Clippings From the Cotner Exponent

As Cotner University grew in "numbers and wisdom" a need was felt for a medium through which student activities might be transmitted. In order to meet this need the students had talked of a college paper as a means. This idea took tangible form in April, 1893. The following is suggestive of the plan adopted and the editorial staff for the first year:

#### THE COTNER EXPONENT

Published monthly by the students of Cotner  
University

F. L. SUMPTER, Editor

*Assistants:*

A. J. Dungan.....	Locals
Miss Alice Gadd.....	Literary
Wm. Oeschger.....	Field Notes

---

H. J. JOHNSON, Business Manager

Subscription, one year in advance.....	\$.75
Single copy.....	.10

Entered at Bethany P. O. as second-class matter.

#### Editorial

For a number of years Cotner University has felt the need of a good representative college paper. Many times have different students talked the matter over, but each time we have failed in seeing how we could make it pay expenses. At last we have succeeded. We have gone to the most enterprising business men of the city, laid the matter before them, explained that we have about 300 students and 200 residents, and convinced them that it will pay them to advertise with us. Now they have done their part, and done it well and

liberally. As far as they are concerned the COTNER EXPONENT is a success. The rest remains for the students and friends of Cotner University.

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Clippings from the Cotner Exponent will carry to the students of Cotner's initial period a message which will be keenly enjoyed because of the personal touch with the school in those years; to the ones of the later period they will present a picture of the days other than those of which they were a part.

### Locals

Mr. Frank Barrow, formerly a student of Cotner, but at present the editor of the Bennet News, visited Cotner on the 4th.

Motto of the Theological Students:

"Count that day lost whose low descending sun  
Views at thy hand no eight dollars and expenses won."

It has been hinted that there is to be another society this term, viz: "The Bald-Headed Bachelors." First meeting in the music room.

Professor: "Please preserve a little more silence in this library, as Miss Hemry would like to study."

There are fifteen houses in process of erection at Bethany Heights. Hurrah for Cotner university.

Another occasion of great rejoicing was the victory of Cotner's baseball team over that of the Wesleyan University. It has been the boast of that institution when we made them see stars in the football game, that they could just whip us on the diamond. We never thought so, and just for fun scared up a scratch team and went over Friday, October 6. The players were as follows: Brown, catcher; Darby, pitcher, Hillis, first base; Pile, second base; Wilmeth, third base; Dungan, R. A., right field; Dungan, R. M., left field; Smith, center field; Stratton, short stop.

Is Schell also among the preachers? Verily, what

strange things are coming to pass in these last days.

The students would be pleased to hear from the "Sea Side Quartette" and so the gentlemen composing that organization may expect to be called upon in chapel some morning.

Chancellor Jennings started east Feb. 17, on an extended visit to work for the university from a financial standpoint. His success is fully expected and our university will be placed on a footing to do much better work in the future than it has done in the past.

The Exponent often gave the orations of Cotner's representatives to the state contests. In 1893 Miss Alice Gadd was Cotner's orator. Her subject was "The Work of the American Women."

"O, noble man, thou art indeed worthy of the crown which decks thy brow! Thou has gloriously accomplished the work which God has given thee to do! But, alone, thou art inadequate for the great work of today! In the youth of history the value of woman as a help-mate began to be appreciated. Is she not now capable of rendering the needed assistance? In disposition she is kind, sympathetic, affectionate, true and forebearing. God truly could never have given man anything more worthy of his love and protection than He did when He allowed the angel of purity to assume the form of woman, and consenting to her pleadings in behalf of the lonely man, permitted her to take up her abode in that garden, called after she had come to dwell there, the garden of Paradise."

#### **Prohibition Oratorical Contest 1893**

"William Oeschger spoke on 'How to Vote.' He spoke earnestly and with feeling. The cheers of the audience indicated their appreciation. A piano duet by Misses Stephens and Rush showed great skill and was greatly enjoyed. The next number was a recitation by Miss Jessie Dillon, entitled "The Spanish Duel." Cotner people never tire of hearing Miss Dillon and this

was one of her best efforts. The Harmonic Quartette, composed of Messrs. Flatter, Dungan, Nesbit and Hilton, rendered "The Tar's Farewell." They responded to a hearty encore with "Simple Simon." By the time the program was finished the decision of the judges was ready. Mr. Oeschger received first place and will represent Cotner University in the state prohibition contest May 13, 1893."

#### Oratorical Contest 1894

"A Problem of the Ages" by R. Kent Beattie

"Hark, the echoes of the approaching conflict come faintly to our ears. From the pine-clad shores of old New England to the sunny western slopes of the Sierras, we see the gradual awakening from the sleep of apathy into the full glory of energetic action. Shall we lag behind? No. The man is thrice a coward who deserts his country now. Answer manfully to your country's call, as have your fathers in times before. Let us then press onward to victory with the watchword upon our lips, that glad triumphant cry, the patriot's song of freedom, "America for America."

—Clippings from the History of the Class of '93—

The history of the class of '93 is a history of Cotner. Christian University, as it was then called, begun school October 6, 1889. We then occupied the yellow house southeast of the campus, known as "Uncle Tom's Cabin." The faculty consisted of Vice-President Aylsworth, Professors Chamberlain and Harris and Miss Parker. In January we were promoted to the dormitory. We were exceedingly proud of our new quarters. At first the janitor lived in the basement just across from the chapel, otherwise known as the dining room. Mr. Scott and family indulged in cooking cabbage two days and cooked onions three days of the school week. In January we were also delighted by an addition to our faculty. Professor Burnet was very cordially welcomed. We only wished there could be several



more. The first of the spring term we entered the university building. There was much joy over this and a jubilee held. The students were of a very literary turn of mind and early in the fall term the C. R. society was organized. Mr. Bicknell was elected president.

During the month of May the sophomore and second preparatory classes gave a banquet in honor of the class of '93. It was an elaborate affair and will always be remembered with pleasure. \* \* Our history is ended. I have not taken space to tell of the positions held by the members nor of their rank in class work. Our work is known to the students. Our three young men leave school to enter the ministry. If history included prophecy I would predict a successful future for each of them. We leave with more sadness than joy. We entered as tiny streams this reservoir of learning; we leave with stronger currents and purer waters. We enter the great ocean of life each to flow in its chosen channel. Happy, laborious, beneficial school days, "goodbye." Helpful, dear and noble students; loving kind and competent teachers "farewell."—Class Historian.

**Extracts from Medical Commencement Address  
by Dr. E. J. Latta**

"I have often spoken to you of certain habits, and I feel constrained on this last occasion to refer to them again. If you have acquired a habit of using tobacco, my advice is to abandon it. You can easily do it. It requires no more will power than it does to steady the hand, when you are compelled to wield the surgeon's knife. Abandon it for the sake of your own health—abandon it because it is a vulgar, filthy practice—but especially abandon it because the smell of it from your breath and clothing will make your lady patients sick every time you approach the bedside, and you don't want to be an object of disgust.

When business accumulates as it often will in what are called sickly seasons, and you are compelled to go through storm and night; when you are tired almost to prostration, and the damp winds chill the very marrow in your bones, you will say to yourself, and with some show of reason, that "if a man ever needed a stimulant I am that man; a little alcohol will warm and do me good." For a few times it might; but I adjure you, touch it not, for those times when you think you need it will come too often; the serpent will get in his work. The habit may form which will carry you rapidly to a drunkard's grave before you have lived over half your days. You know that I am not a fanatic on this subject, but feel it a duty at this parting hour to speak of the experience of many young men who entered upon the duties of the profession when I did, and since, some of whom are in their graves from this cause nearly twenty years. Shun that which will steal away your brains and send you speedily to an imbecile's grave.

And now, as the time has come when our relations as teachers and pupils must be severed, we do it with the most profound regrets. Not but that we rejoice with you in your having completed your college course, which makes you the equals of other physicians in professional standing. But there is a sadness about parting with friends with whom we have been so intimately associated during years that are past, especially when that parting may, and probably will be the last. Be brave ever to oppose the wrong, always strive to do right; acquit yourselves like men, and be assured that you will always have our best wishes for your success and happiness in this life and the great beyond."

As you finish reading this short chapter, just pause for a few moments, read between the lines many other events which are not here recorded, then draw a big breath of the "old Cotner spirit," sweetened by the fragrance of past memories, and push on with a broader smile.

## CHAPTER XVIII

### Clippings From the Cotner Collegian

Perhaps a more loyal, progressive group of young men and women was never gathered in one place than those enrolled as Cotner students. Most of the movements for the advancement of university life have been initiated by the student body. One of the vital factors in university activities since 1902 has been the Cotner Collegian. The beginner of this college paper was Miss Myrtle King, then a student of Cotner, now Mrs. G. J. P. Barger, a missionary at Bolenge, Africa. While in high school Miss King had learned the printer's trade, and after an apprenticeship in the job and newspaper office of her brother-in-law, she began newspaper work for herself. In January, 1902, she enrolled for a business and Bible course at Cotner. Having a hand printing press she established a job printing office in Bethany the following June and in the fall initiated the Cotner Collegian. From the beginning Miss King won the hearts of all by her quiet, affectionate ways and from that time to the present the little paper has filled an important function in college life.

The first Collegian editorial staff was as follows:

Myrtle G. King.....Editor and Publisher

#### CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

General News.....	T. Milo Keith '03
Religious.....	Alma Demarest Sias '06
Mathesian Biblical Society.....	Bert Wilson
Philomathian Literary Society.....	Elsie N. Reddick
Athletic.....	R. Lyle Finch '07
Music.....	Prof. Lola Mix Sutton '04

Local and Personal,.....

Mollie Enyart '07

Roy O. Young '06

Alumni.....Prof. Grace E. Young '97

The second year marks a change in the management of the paper. During the first year it had, to an extent, been a private enterprise now it becomes a student publication. An editorial in September, 1903, explains the change. "The beginning of the fall semester marks a change in the management of this organ. Hitherto Myrtle G. King has been its editor and proprietor. Henceforth the publication will be controlled by the student body of Cotner. At a mass meeting of the students on September 16, an advisory board, consisting of M. E. Miller, Professor Bush and Mollie Enyart, was elected. This board exists to perpetuate the life of the paper and to advise in its policy and management when necessary. Likewise Hugh Lomax and Bert Wilson were elected editor and business manager respectively."

The paper was published as a monthly until 1908 when it became a weekly. The subscription price, which had been fifty cents per year, was now advanced to \$1.00. In the early days more articles were found in the Collegian, while to-day as the activities of the university have multiplied, it deals to a much larger degree with the local news.

The editors and business managers from the beginning have been as follows:

Year	Editor	Business Manager
1902	Myrtle G. King.....	Myrtle G. King
1903	Hugh Lomax.....	Bert Wilson
1904	Claire Armstrong.....	Homer J. Young
1905	E. M. Johnson.....	Roy Lucas
1906	Cleveland Kleihauer.....	E. H. Longman
1907	J. E. Smith.....	C. G. Smith

1908	Elsie Britt (Child)	George Dill
1909	Chloe Dill (Morrison)	Harold Neibling
1910	Besse Van Buskirk	H. E. Parminter
1911	Robert Lemmon	L. J. Strain
1912	Avery Morton	L. J. Strain
1913	Harry Weekly	Henry Hanner
1914	Cleo Dixon	Elmer Strain
1915	Pearl Swartwood	Clyde Darner

Sometimes, when we were students at old C. U. and the Collegian made its monthly or weekly visits to our rooms, we found ourselves "too busy" to do more than glance at the headlines and barely scan its pages but to-day, as we are looking for something in an old box or trunk or in a closet or the attic, where the remnants of the past are kept, if perchance our eyes fall upon copies of the Collegian we peruse, read and re-read, until someway our eyes become blurred and we carefully lay them away. Yes, we had just as well destroy the old copies but—oh—somehow we rather like to keep them.

Here are some of the local items that have appeared in the Collegian not as the weeks or months have recorded them but as the years have come and gone.

### Local News

Ada and Floyd Bash spent the 15th at their home near Adams.

Those who attended the Y. M. C. A. convention at Beatrice are Roy Young, Clay Longman, John Gilmore, and Ed. Smith.

The Mathesian has a glee club composed of sixteen male voices.

At last it has come! Proclaim it to all the people. We (Mathesians) begin on time.

Chancellor Aylsworth delivered the memorial sermon at Wesleyan last Sunday.

The "long and short of it" a duet sung by John Olmstead six feet three inches, and Val Johnson four feet, was very interesting.

Elmer Child is a new student from Georgia. Who says that Cotner is not a drawing power? .

### HOW WE SPENT VACATION

Mr. Miller—Nailing laths on various houses, coming out, without owing a cent and with a sore thumb left on hand.

Mr. Johnson—Chuckling over our baseball victories and thinking up schemes to worry the '07s.

Mr. Turner—Getting married and the postoffice.

Mr. Lucas—On parole (pay roll) at Hastings insane asylum.

Mr. Kleihauer—Hoeing sauerkraut on the stalk.

The matrimonial crop will probably be scanty next summer. The students are limited to two evenings out each week.

Mr. S. Murashima, a Japanese student, will start from Japan as soon as he receives his "Ryo-Ko Ken"—a transport. He expects to be here the second semester to use his scholarship, which was presented to him by the college board.

At Philomathian, after the president, Mr. Lucas, had escorted the secretary, Miss Harding, to her accustomed place, two very lonesome beings were left back in the audience. But as misery always loves company, "The Deacon" and Miss Scheer soon found themselves consoling each other with words too sympathetic to be repeated.

The chorus under the direction of Mrs. Sutton is working on the oratorio "The Prodigal Son."

The ministerial association held its opening session Wednesday evening. Addresses were made by Prof. Bush and President Johnson. Also a report concern-

ing the conditions of the field was made by Secretary Kechley.

We are glad to see the boys bringing back new students, even if they do have to marry them to get them here. We become either old bachelors or married men in a hurry here at Cotner.

The only excuse a student has for not entering contests is "*Ain't got time.*" The only reason a student has is "*Fraid I'll get beat.*"

Clevy Kleihauer's jolly round face is shining in our midst once more.

We are glad that soon we can have reports from the girls, who went to Geneva. Miss Clara Aylsworth and Mollie Enyart were sent as delegates and Miss Donna Enyart went in the interest of the Y. W. C. A., as well as for pleasure.

Bert Wilson, candidate for congressman, also an old time Mathesian, attended chapel October 4.

This is to be a year of great things in the way of oratory. Twenty-five people are preparing for the local contests, the first of which will occur about December 8.

The university church raised \$148 for foreign missions March 5.

On February 19, at the regular Sunday afternoon service the Young Women's Christian Association elected officers for the ensuing year. The result of the election was as follows: President, Lucile Ford; vice-president, Carrie Hubbard; secretary, Donna Enyart; treasurer, Nellie Phillips.

Look out for a hot debate between the Mathesians and the Philos.

Floyd Bash has gone to his home at Hooker. After completing the corn husking act he will move with his parents to Bethany.

Three weddings have occurred in Bethany recently among our former students. Homer Young and Mabel Wilson, Arthur Armstrong and Laura Meyer, and Louis Epler and Freda Ford. We all join in wishing each couple many joys and blessings.

Frank Woten and Edwin Smith have been out of school for a week husking corn.

The enrollment of the university to date is nearly 250, at least 50 more than the enrollment up to this time last year.

#### Y. W. C. A. OFFICERS

Miss Minnie Young, president; Miss Ada Burton, vice-president; Miss Daisy McClintock, secretary; Miss Gertrude Baldwin, treasurer.

News has just reached Bethany of the safe arrival in Liverpool of Joseph E. Smith, a Cotner man, who is to complete a three years course at Oxford, England.

Prof. Melvin R. Gilmore has an interesting article in the current number of the Journal of American History which every student should read. Incidentally this is a boost for Cotner.

Mrs. H. O. Pritchard addressed the Y. W. C. A. meeting Friday afternoon.

Miss Mabel Cutter gave an elocution recital for the C. E. at Hazard Friday evening.

The Minnesota students were entertained last Thursday evening by the Misses Bess Kirk and Myrtle Johnson in honor of J. H. Bicknell, '93. All of the fifteen Minnesota students at Cotner have been sent by Rev. Bicknell.

The athletic association held a meeting last Thursday and elected Rollin Squires as manager of the basketball team and Ray Murphy as manager of base ball.

Dr. Aylsworth delighted the students at chapel Wednesday with the announcement that Rodney



McQuary had been elected president of his class at Yale.

Dole is the man who is doing the picture work this year.

"Brum" says he is in line for the whole team but don't know just what he is good for yet.

Henry Hanner is still hanging around Bethany from last reports. Why?

Why should everyone laugh when Mrs. Luce incidentally remarked, as she was making an announcement, that "the glee club girls were pretty"?

The Collegian has always brought the news. It has told of entertainments, musicales and plays, given and enjoyed; it has told of the victories which Cotner orators, debaters and athletes were to win and then in the next issue, of the real contest, sometimes with victory, sometimes defeat, but always saying, "we are proud just the same." It has given the gist of chapel speeches, society programs were mentioned and a little told about the Y. M. and Y. W. It has told of wedding bells that rung, of happy homes begun and of some that perhaps would be. Yes, teachers and students have contributed articles and poems. All this the Collegian has brought to us month by month or week by week. Glance over these clippings and be filled with an invigorating breath of college spirit.

Lines, paragraphs or verses, here and there, from the articles or poems of teachers and students as they have appeared in the years past will perhaps give a word of cheer or encouragement to the reader.

#### **Concentration**

Diffuse thinking leads to action without system and to action void of satisfactory results. A block of ice may lie with its face turned to the vertical rays of the sun and though it dissolves itself into icy tears it can impart no warmth to the objects around. Take, how-

ever, but a small fragment of the block of ice, round the top down to the edge, and the paradox is complete, the piece of ice has become a producer of heat. The rays of the sun are focused through it, are concentrated. So the student who would succeed must learn to focus the powers of the mind, must acquire the art of concentration.—L. P. Bush, *Collegian*, 1904.

### **Plans and Specifications**

The ideals for the year, in a general way hardly need to be stated, they are so familiar. First of all must be placed genuine, manly and womanly character. This cannot be stimulated. Some one has said, "Your actions speak so loudly that we cannot hear what you say." Do not neglect your spiritual life. Second, remember that your aim should be high scholarship. Perhaps not always the "honor man" but certainly the kind of student determines largely the success of the future. Let nothing beguile you from a determination to be a good scholar. Do not stop at the things easy for you. To conquer the difficult and uncongenial tasks, there the real honor and the greatest benefits lie.—Chancellor Aylsworth, *Collegian*, 1904.

### **Let Your Light Shine**

Someone says, "My influence is so small, I can do so little." Let me say to that person: Every little bit helps. The great pyramids could never have been built if it had not been for the individual stones.—S. J. Epler, *Collegian*, 1905.

### **Our Life Work**

Finally, we must associate ourselves with the Infinite. We must really associate ourselves with the Power that moves the worlds; with the wealth that hides the gold and precious stones in the heart of the earth; with the science that classifies and names the trees and the flowers, the birds and the beasts; with the gentleness and tenderness that puts the pearly dew

drop on the petals of the rose; with the love that provides the bounties of earth for man and beast. Truly we must associate ourselves with God.—H. C. Armstrong, *Collegian*, 1905.

**On Mother's Knee**

Ah! at mother's knee,  
When all the blessed are gathering home  
With banners waving high,  
When angels cluster 'round the throne  
In realms beyond the sky.  
I do not ask for golden crown  
Nor costly robe for me.  
If only resting place be found—  
A resting place at mother's knee.

—Clyde Cordner, *Collegian*, 1908.

**If I Were Chancellor**

If I were elected chancellor  
I know just what I'd do—  
I'd make a minor change of two,  
And systematize the school.

For all athletics I would boost,  
And thereon lay much stress;  
But Latin, Greek and English too  
Would take a slump I guess.

Unto Professor Keith I'd look  
For order in the hall.  
I'd take him from the Greek classroom  
To manage basketball.

To mathematics of all kinds  
I soon would put a stop;  
Fit room thirteen for pressing clothes,  
And first-class barber shop.

Dr. Beattie'd have this room,  
And fit it up you know,  
To teach a moving picture class  
And run a ten-cent show.

Miss Wampler'd organize a class  
Of all the girls in town,  
And simply teach them not to turn  
The bashful fellows down.

I'd watch the college spirit too,  
For this shows too much fight;  
And Mr. Woten reprimand  
For shocking owls at night.

Wilson I'd make janitor;  
I b'lieve he'd save us coal  
By speaking pieces in the pipes  
He' make the hoop-la roll.

Professor Young and Jacobs too,  
And Aylworth and the rest  
I'd leave alone, and pay them well  
Unless we got hard pressed.

Some great improvements I would make  
Within, without as well,  
And if the students these should mar  
I'd send them straight to my office.  
—F. H. Brokaw, '14, Collegian, 1910.

### ***Ships Gone Down at Sea***

'Neath the surface broad and smiling,  
Of the ocean wide and deep,  
Where the waters lie in quiet  
And the tempests never sweep,

There are depths so calm and peaceful  
That from stormy waves are free,  
But they hide the broken wreckage  
Of the ships gone down at sea.

Smiling faces all about us  
Cover depths of soul profound,  
Where the wrecks of high ambitions  
Broken hope and faith are found.  
One had hope of fame and honor,  
Sought for name of great renown,  
But the world saw not his greatness  
And his ship of fame went down.

One had hope of wealth and riches,  
King of gold he hoped to be,  
But the fleeting years have tricked him  
And his ships gone down at sea.  
One had dreams of love and sweetheart,  
Dreams that made his future glow,  
But the dreaming died in vision,  
And his ship went down below.

One had faith in God and heaven,  
Faith and trust as of a child,  
But his ship of faith was shattered  
When the stories of life grew wild.  
Far beneath the smiling surface  
Of the sea of human life,  
Down in depths of calm unbroken  
Lies the wreckage of the strife.

And the world may smile and chatter  
In the homes and in the marts,  
But a million smiling faces  
Hide a million broken hearts,

Just as in the depths of ocean,  
Where no eye of man can see,  
Lie the broken masts and rigging  
Of the ships gone down at sea.

—T. Milo Keith, Collegian, 1911.

### Alone in Thought

When in this peaceful room I rest, alone and sad at heart,  
I study o'er the means of life, of all it doth impart.  
How great this life of every day with all its strife  
and cares,  
Yet, He who dwells above us all, with us our sorrow shares.

Still after all, how sweet is life amidst its pains and cares,  
For blessings great come from above to drive away the tears.  
And when I think of Him, Divine, of life beyond so fair—  
My heart is still and peaceful, I upward breathe a prayer.  
—Grace Park, Collegian, 1914.

### Names

I went to the college top one day,  
Reverently mounted the twisted stair;  
And I locked the door for I wished to stay  
For a little while alone up there.

I climbed to the top of the highest tower,  
Above and apart from the busy strife;  
A place where silence claims the hours  
Stilling the stirring of distant life.

Where each of the four close walls displays  
The plyings of pencil, knife and pen.  
A thousand names in a thousand ways;  
Some carelessly scrawled again, and again.

Some clearly written, small and straight,  
Some faded dim with times' decay  
Some closely paired with added date,  
Some carved too deep to wear away.

It's thus a tower within my heart  
To which I climb when memory calls;  
A little place above, apart,  
A room with names upon the walls.

A thousand names in a thousand ways,  
Some carelessly scrawled again, and again,  
And fondly memory 'mong them strays  
To conjure visions of what has been.

Some clearly written, small and straight,  
Some faded dim with times' decay;  
Some closely paired with added date,  
Some carved too deep to wear away.

—Lois Nichols, '19, *Collegian*, 1915.

#### **Prohibition Oratory 1904**

Listen, as the *Collegian* reports the victories won!  
The chapel was well filled Thursday night, March 10th. The occasion was the annual contest of the Prohibition League, which is fast becoming a favorite "side issue" of the students. The first speaker, Bert Wilson, took the floor. His subject was "Do We Need a Prohibition Party"? Mr. Wilson took first on manuscript. E. E. Smith was the next speaker. His oration was entitled, "Grounds for Liquor Legislation."

He ranked second on manuscript. "Evils of License" was the subject of the next speech, delivered by Hugh Lomax. Mrs. Kittie Aylsworth then entertained the audience with a vocal number, rendered in her usual pleasing manner. Following this were the two remaining orations, "The Tree of Abolition," by Eugene Palmer and "The Open Saloon," by Ford Ellis. At this point the markings were collected from the different judges and the "summing up" committee retired..... The result of the markings was as follows: Mr. Lomax, first; Mr. Wilson, second; Mr. Smith, third; Mr. Palmer, fourth; and Mr. Ellis, fifth. The winner will represent Cotner in the state contest, held this year at Central City, April 12. Many favorable comments upon all the orations were heard.

#### **Oratorical Contest 1904**

The oratorical contest this year promises to be the best ever. Nine orations are in the hands of the judges. December 22 is the date. The state contest will occur this year at Grand Island early in February, and one of the following students will represent Cotner there: F. G. Hamm, John Alber, E. E. Smith, Lucile Ford, Ford Ellis, Clara Aylsworth, H. Lomax, A. J. Hollingsworth and R. W. Roland.

#### **Prohibition Contest 1905**

The annual oratorical contest of the prohibition league was held at the chapel Thursday evening, February 25th. Six stalwart prohibitionists, well prepared and trained, contended for the victor's wreath. Mr. Austin J. Hollingsworth was awarded the first honor and Mr. M. E. Miller received the second.

#### **That Contest 1907**

By some "hook or crook" the Collegian failed to mention in its last issue, that notable occasion in the school year, namely, the "Contest of Tongues" or "War of



Words," or more modestly, the local Oratorical Contest. It occurred. It occurred well. Mr. Britt won the plum, even while Cordner, Ellis and Alber were reaching for it. We congratulate Mr. Britt.

### Prohibition Contest 1908

Among the many creditable victories which have been achieved by the students of Cotner University recently, none deserve a more prominent mention than the winning of first place in the State Prohibition Oratorical Contest, held at Grand Island, March 25th.

Mr. Ford A. Ellis, Cotner's orator, spoke on "The Liquor Traffic—A Crime." It was a logical and polished production and being delivered with Mr. Ellis' accustomed force and grace easily won first place.

Mr. W. B. Knapp of Wesleyan University, speaking on "The Master Apostle of Abstinence," won second place. York College and Doane were well represented tying for third place. Other schools represented were Grand Island College, Nebraska Central College and Orleans Seminary.

The contest was held in the Grand Island opera house, a large and commodious room and the various colleges were well represented by delegations.

Mr. Ellis will represent Nebraska for the State Prohibition League at the interstate contest to be held at Waco, Texas, during the next month, and with his splendid energy and ability is sure of a very creditable place. He has worked hard during his days at Cotner to gain this marked success and we all rejoice with him over it.

### ALBER WINS

Mr. John G. Alber won the annual oratorical contest, which was held in the chapel Tuesday evening, being marked first place by each of the six judges, an unusually decisive victory. Clyde Cordner took second place

with his oration on "International Peace" and Leon Moomaw ranked third, his theme being "David Livingstone—A Hero."

Alber has an enviable record as an orator. In his senior academy year he represented Cotner in the State Prohibition Oratorical contest, taking first place and taking second place in the interstate contest held at Witchita, Kansas, during the same year. While a freshman, he won the local oratorical contest and took fourth place in the state oratorical contest held at Creighton.

### **Cordner's Record in Oratory**

It will be remembered that Cotner attained a very high rank in the Prohibition oratorical work last year. Mr. Cordner for Cotner won first place in the state contest. In the national contest held at Valparaiso, Indiana, he received fourth honors.

### **Contestants for 1911**

#### **LEON MOOMAW WINS CONTEST**

Thursday evening the annual State Prohibition Oratorical contest was held in the chapel. This was the first time for seven years that the state contest has been held at Cotner. A large delegation was present from Wesleyan which added much enthusiasm to the occasion. Several were present from Union College. The judges on manuscript were Supt. Crabtree and Prof. Sherman. Judge Frost and Prof. Phillips were the judges on delivery. The junior Male Quartette furnished music for the evening. The orations were all very good. Leon Moomaw won first place. This makes two years in succession that Cotner has won the state contest. It is also the fourth time in six years.

The other colleges ranked as follows: Wesleyan, second; York, third; Grand Island, fourth; Doane, fifth;

Orleans Seminary, sixth; Central College, seventh. Mr. Moomaw received a prize of fifty dollars and a pennant from each college represented. He will represent Nebraska in the interstate contest to be held at Greenville, Texas, May 19.

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### LEMMON WINS SECOND PLACE

Clarence E. Lemmon, '14, won second place in the twenty-seventh annual contest of the Nebraska Inter-Collegiate Oratorical Association at Hastings last Thursday night, February 16. Wesleyan proved an invincible foe. W. A. Crossland, their contestant, after two years' experience in the state contest on practically the same oration, won first place. Thus we do not decry our defeat.

Mr. Lemmon was in the best of trim. His oration, "The Spirit of Progressive Government," was developed along the lines of the new nationalism. It was written in his characteristic style, strong and vigorous, and convincing in argument. His delivery was at its best. As he came upon the platform, his self mastery asserted itself. He was the seventh upon the program and as the hour was exceedingly late, the audience was tired and restless. Yet he gained their attention and held it throughout. His production and rendition were creditable both to himself and to his university.

### Oratorical Contest 1915

The Nebraska Oratorical contest was held at Crete, Nebraska, Last Friday. The honor for first place went to Grand Island, and they should be proud of their representative, Earl Everett. His subject, "Who Leads?" was developed in a brainy fashion and delivered in a gripping way. He took the lawyer as the leader and his material was chosen from ages past as well as the present day.

Miss Johnson of Bellevue, who helped to compose

one of their debating teams last year, won second. She has a beautiful voice and an easy natural delivery.

P. B. Cope came in for third place and the large number of Cotner students that went down to help him were proud of his oration and the work he had spent upon it to bring it to such a degree of efficiency.

### Oratorical Contest 1916

In the annual contest of the Nebraska Inter-Collegiate Oratorical Association that was held at Omaha on Friday evening of last week O. E. Johnson of Cotner won second place.

Elmer A. Barr of Creighton university in an oration on "Preparedness" won first place. Bellevue, York and Doane all tied for third place; Wesleyan took fourth, Grand Island fifth and Hastings sixth.

All the speakers showed a great deal of preparation but for logic and clearness of thought, Johnson had them all "backed off the board."

### Debating

March 26, 1908—There was a triangular debate between Bellevue, Doane and Cotner. Each school had two teams and each argued both sides of the following question: Resolved, That the federal government should have exclusive control of all corporations doing an interstate business. Doane lost both debates, Bellevue won one and lost one, and Cotner won both. Cotner's debaters were Moomaw, Rethemeyer and Cobbey; Wilson, Hunt and Lively. Four juniors and two freshmen, all preachers. Of course we don't question the veracity of our preachers, but they certainly must have enlarged upon the facts on one side or the other. H. O. Pritchard trained the teams.

March 27—On the return of the debaters from Crete, all operations in the college were suspended and all assembled in the lower hall to hear how it was done. A temporary platform was constructed out of the shoulders of two students of giant stature, and upon this the conquerors mounted and said their little speeches.

March 28—Because of the interest he had taken in the work of the debating team, H. O. Pritchard was presented with a pair of hoisery, which he called socks. Within these was enough money to take him to Bloomington, Indiana.

### **Troxel-Moomaw-Lemmon**

1911

At the final preliminary last Thursday afternoon, Dan. C. Troxel, '12, Leon Moomaw, '11, and Clarence E. Lemmon, '14, were chosen as the team to meet Canton February 15. Clarence Miles, '11, was chosen as alternate. The same team will, no doubt, meet Doane at Cotner in the tri-angular debates held during March.

Each member of the team is an experienced debater, Lemmon and Troxel being in the team which defeated Canton at Cotner last year, and Moomaw twice figuring in the tri-angular debating teams. The try-out last Wednesday showed much better form and preparation than any of the season and with six weeks in which to work up the team it is expected that every thing will be in good shape.

Clarence Lemmon is "The Invincible" of Cotner. He is one of the leading orators and debators. Defeat is not in his line.

Troxel, too, has been a leader. He will show Canton if they are from Missouri. He is a good public speaker, has a good voice and never lacks for a speech.

Moomaw is the steady, progressive debater. He can

take defeat as well as victory and do it like a man, but no defeat will have to be suffered by him and his colleagues in the debate with Canton.

### **Knapp-Radcliff-Miles**

1911

The debating club met last Thursday afternoon for its final preliminary debate, leading up to the triangular debate between Doane, Bellevue and Cotner. The team that was selected a few weeks ago for the Canton debate will be one of the teams in the triangular meet. The personnel of the team first chosen is, Dan Troxel, '12, Leon Moomaw, '11, and Clarence Lemmon, '14. The men picked Thursday were, Clarence Miles, '11, Walter Radcliff, '14, and Carl Knapp, '14. In the final arrangement it is probable that Leon Moomaw and Carl Knapp will change positions. The question that is to be debated is, "Resolved, That legislation should be shaped toward the abandonment of the protective tariff." Messrs. Miles, Moomaw and Radcliff will uphold the negative of the question at Bellevue, Messrs. Troxel, Lemmon and Knapp will maintain the affirmative at home against Doane.

### **Cotner Wins Triangular**

1913

### **Proves Both Sides for Third Successive Time**

For three successive years Cotner has proved both sides of the question in the triangular debate. This is certainly a record to be proud of. Moreover, in the six years that this triangular league has been in existence, Cotner has won nine debates out of twelve. She has won both sides of the question four times, lost both once, and won only one side once. All in all, the last six years out of seventeen intercollegiate debates, Cotner has won twelve.

This year the question debated was "Resolved, That trusts should be regulated rather than prohibited." Cotner met Bellevue at Bellevue; a team from Doane also met Cotner at Cotner, and Bellevue also met Doane at Crete. Each home team defended the affirmative. Cotner was the only team to successfully defend the affirmative. It is rather singular this year that each victory was a two to one decision.

Two of Cotner's men close their work in debating this year. Mr. Lemmon has been on eight winning teams since he has been in school. He is the winner of the Edwin Jeary twenty-five dollar (\$25) prize for the best all-round debater in school. His long experience makes his services invaluable. Mr. Griggs, the other senior, helped win his second intercollegiate debate this year.

The affirmative speakers were R. C. Dady, C. H. Thompson and C. E. Lemmon. The negative speakers were W. W. Wertz, Ward Goble and F. A. Dawes; Cotner men representing the affirmative side and Doane men the negative.

#### **Cotner at Bellevue**

On the same evening that Cotner's affirmative team was showing Doane that the trust should be regulated rather than prohibited, the negative team composed of E. N. Griggs, C. E. PerLee and P. B. Cope, with Avery Morton as alternate, met and defeated Bellevue at the latter place.

#### **Cotner-Bellevue 1914**

Although Bellevue scored decisively over Cotner in her debate last Friday evening, the fact that the negative side won in all three of the debates held in the triangular last Friday evening acts as a sort of heart balm to the defeated.

The question, "Resolved, That in America municipal-

ities of twenty-five thousand or over, a tax on the rental value of land, exclusive of improvements, should be substituted for the general property tax," is rather lop-sided from the debater's standpoint.

The affirmative, upheld by Cotner, was represented by Orville Johnson, '16, Elmer Strain, '15, and Carl PerLee, '14. The Bellevue team was composed of Mr. Seymour Smith, Miss Anna Johnson and Mr. Orie Webb.

### **Cotner-Doane, 1914**

On Friday night Cotner's negative team, composed of Luther Cobbey, '17, Ernest Molloy, '14, and Peter B. Cope, '15, administered another defeat to Doane College at Crete. Out of seven debates with Doane, Cotner has won six.

### **Debating, 1915**

The first debate at home with Doane was a two to one victory. The Cotner team upholding the affirmative side of the railroad ownership question, consisted of Messrs. E. E. Strain, L. A. Brumbaugh and E. E. Briggs. Alonzo Knight was the alternate. Every speech made showed hard work and clear, consistent thinking and good delivery. The debate with Bellevue upheld the negative of the same issue and Messrs. L. Dry, O. E. Johnson and P. B. Cope, with Garland Nichols as alternate composed the team. The decision was unanimous in favor of the negative and these men deserve all the praise of a proud and happy student body.

### **Athletics 1903**

Bellevue made her initial appearance on Cotner's ground on May 8, her team came, hoping to wipe out the defeat administered in her own door yard, but not so. After it was over the man behind the pencil said 11 to 6 in favor of Cotner.



Football has closed the season with much credit. Not all the games were won, but in every one our boys made a good showing. We have every reason to be proud of their record. At a recent meeting Mr. Johnson was elected manager for next year and Mr. Lucas captain.

### **Field Hockey 1907**

The third was won and let there be nine raahs for every one who helped to win it, Cotner vs. Wesleyan. Peaches and cream! say, don't that sorter tickle your ears every time you hear about it? There were 373 paid admissions and the interest was great. almost impossible to keep them off the hockey limits and no one would sit in the grand stand. Music was furnished by the band. Wesleyan called it noise, but no one with reasoning powers would expect them to appreciate music with the ball rolling steadily toward their goal. Strange indeed, that they noticed it at all. A good game with a good score? No, not that. A great game with a glorious score of 2-0 for Cotner.

### **Cotner-Wesleyan Game 1908**

Of all the victories Cotner has won this year, perhaps no other has brought so much joy to our hearts as the Cotner-Wesleyan ball game. On the 8th day of May about 4 o'clock there assembled a goodly number of fans at the Wesleyan ball park to witness the struggle. Both teams were confident of winning. Mr. Farthing, the much tooted Wesleyan south paw, was to do the twirling for the opposition while "Pid" Parminster was to serve the slants for the Cotnerites. Mr. Farthing undoubtedly had the groceries, for he only allowed the Cotnerites one little lonesome hit. Parminster was equally effective at critical times, and allowed only five scattered hits. Wesleyan had a number of men on bases and at one time filled the bases with no men out, but there was absolutely nothing

doing in the score column. Taken through and through the Wesleyanites are fair batters, but a headless lot of base runners. Cotner was unable to uncork a score until the eighth inning, owing to their inability to connect with Farthing. Pirtle safely reached first and then just stole the remainder of the bases in succession, making the lone score for the game. After that there was nothing doing at home plate. Farthing's pitching and Jester's double play were the features of the game.

### **The Western Trip, 1908**

The Cotner "Bulldogs" took their western trip beginning May 12 at Kearney and ending May 20 at Seward. Kearney's strong aggregation got the small end of the score on Tuesday, May 12, 1 to 0 being the result. The game was one of the fastest ever seen on the Kearney diamond. Ritchey, Ogden and Smith, the stonewall outfield, pulled off sensational stunts which raised the spectators from their seats as if they were one. Parminter wiggled with Ling doing the receiving stunt. Giltner's first game was pitched by "Tannehill" Jones. Our clever south paw doing double work both on the slab and at bat, really won his own game, 5 to 4. The boys have all kinds of confidence in "Tanne," for he is sure a coming winner. "General" Miles, the star short stop, for "Old C. U.," stepped into the box position and pitched remarkable ball for one not professing to be a slab artist. The Giltner boys pounded in five tallies while Cotner scared only one across the plate. At Hastings "Pid" Parminter again faced the sluggers from the opposing team and they slugged "Pid" for seven runs in the last of the ninth inning, making a tie score of 9 to 9. Twelve innings finished the game with a score 11 to 9 in Cotner's favor. Saturday's game at Overton was a neat victory for "Old C. U." The score 8 to 5 tells the tale. Tannehill

Jones served the slants into the big scoop of "Skinny's" and pitched a strong heady game. Cotner again won from Seward on Tuesday, May 19, at Seward by the score of 14 to 5. Oh, what a walloping the Seward pitchers got. P. Ling or "Ching," one of Cotner's old pitcher's, now with Seward, received his, after Seward was driven from the box. Parminter and Ling did battery work for Cotner. Each got a home run. Seward got a homer off Parmenter, the only one this season so far. The last game of the trip was played at Seward which Cotner lost by 3 to 0. One of the fastest games of the season was witnessed by the Sewardites in this shutout game. Jones twirled a beautiful game, but Cotner could not connect with the Seward pitcher for scores. The game was played in one hour and ten minutes.

## EATS UP THE CORNHUSKERS

1910

### State University Team Outplayed by Bulldogs

SCORE THIRTY-FIVE TO SEVENTEEN

The following account of the Cotner-Nebraska basketball game, which was played Saturday night, is taken from the Sunday State Journal:

"A score of 35 to 17 gave Cotner University's basketball five a victory over the State University team on the latter's floor last evening. The Nebraska five was outplayed in all departments of the game save in throwing goals on foul."

The line-up for the game was:

Cotner		Nebraska	
Parmenter	rf	Hutchinson	
Siddons	lf	Carvier-Owen	
McCullough	lg	Gibson-Minor	
Ogden	rg	Kiddoo-Frank	
Aspinwall	c	Hiltner	

**COTNER DEFEATS KANSAS**

1911

**Big Game of Season Nabbed by Bulldogs.—Fans  
Have Severe Case of "Rabies"**

**FOUR VICTORIES THIS WEEK**

The biggest and most important game of the season was pulled off in the Cotner gym last Thursday evening when the Invincibles met the Unconquerables, when the "Bulldogs" met the Jayhawkers and administered the usual drubbing. This is the game that all local fans have been looking forward to. Prediction was, that it would be the biggest game of the Missouri valley this season and while the result was generally admitted to be in doubt, the favor of the doubt with many outside of the local fandom was with Kansas. The devotees of Happy's five were not disappointed in their favorites. The score of 35 to 26 in favor of the Bulldogs was the cause of great rejoicing.

The line-up:

Cotner	Goals	Foul Goals
Parminster, rf .....	4	1
Siddons, lf .....	9	1
Aspinwall, c. ....	2	1
Ogden, rg .....	0	0
McCullough, lg .....	1	0

**Cotner Administers Defeat to Wesleyan**

1913

On last Wednesday night the much tooted and heralded organization known as the Wesleyan Coyote Basketball team, came over highly confident of administering a drubbing to the local quintette. For some reason or other the expected drubbing failed to arrive. The Bulldogs had been storing up their energy and waiting for a time when they could even things up for the defeat handed them earlier in the season. This

night the Bulldogs proved themselves able to gnaw away on Coyote bones, and get a few tender morsels from such.

Cotner	Field Goals	Foul Goals
Oeschger, rf .....	3	0
Hudson, lf .....	2	0
Squires, c .....	3	0
Morton, rg .....	2	4
Leavitt, lg .....	3	0
		—30

Wesleyan	Field Goals	Foul Goals
Kline, rf .....	2	0
Keester, lf .....	3	5
Hughes, c .....	2	0
Magee, rg .....	0	0
Gary, lg .....	4	0
Johnson, rg .....	0	0
		—27

Referee: Waugh.

#### Captain Martin Glances Backward, 1914

"As I look back over the football season of 1914, I feel more than ever before the honor of being captain of that team. The team that represented Cotner this year has not a single game to be ashamed of. In every one the men fought and fought hard. True, every game was not won but teams averaging nearly twenty pounds to the man heavier were held to close scores and in only one game was Cotner held scoreless.

And by far the greatest honor brought to the team was the picking of "Tiny" Strain by coaches of the state as all-state quarterback. And he clearly deserved it, not only by receiving punts and in generalship of the team, but mainly by his almost unerring ability to carry the ball for consistent gains. But credit for this must also be given to the team."

## CHAPTER XIX

### Looking Backward

How true it is that a "little nonsense now and then is relished by the best of men." As your eye falls upon the pages of this chapter, kind reader, we ask you to let your mind wander back to the days that are passed. Perchance you will find something that will do you good; or maybe a smile will break through in spite of the cares, that almost—well—almost get the best of you. Haven't you heard it said by someone, somewhere, sometime, that college days are the happiest in life; isn't it true for they do have fun at old C. U.

Don't you remember hearing the chapel speakers tell us how glad they were to be there, and to look into our bright and shining faces, and then rising almost to the dignity of an orator tell us to make the most of our opportunities for if we didn't we would regret it, and not let our studies interfere with a good time—or let's see—did they tell us that or was that just the rule we followed—no matter now, we will let it pass. Oh yes, we enjoyed chapel for it was there that Doctor Aylsworth gave his kindly admonitions; he said there was a tendency to skip chapel or to be late in coming; he hoped we would think seriously about this and—and—co-operate in making the chapel a pleasant and helpful hour. Then all announcements had to be read for the Y. M. and Y. W. C. A. cabinets and another organization or two wished to have a meeting in the east end of the hall for just a minute after chapel. By and by we went to classes.

In the years which have passed into memory we have had a great many conflicts. Every once in a while our studies conflicted with a good time; there were

conflicts in meeting places for organizations; sometimes two somebodies needed the gym stage or chapel platform at the same time, or the faculty plans conflicted with the student's ideal. Yes, we had conflicts with our friend, the enemy, Wesleyan, but the conflict I was thinking about was how often at the beginning of a semester, as we looked over the schedule it was remarked, "I wanted to take that but I have a conflict." One should not wonder 'tis true, for a long while ago at a faculty meeting held at 9 a. m. September 13, 1890, it was "found impossible to avoid all conflicts." Yet the faculty favored firmness in what we should do for in 1892 "cast iron schedules were decided upon and Professor Beattie appointed to draw up the same."

You ask if we were ever "out of order"; sometimes, when we used to have parliamentary drill in the literary societies; oh yes, we violated both Robert's rules of order and faculty rules of order for our conduct in the halls was beneath the dignity of young men and young women. Despite the innumerable admonitions, the faculty once passed a resolution "that it be the sense of this faculty that we ask the Board to take steps to keep order in the university halls." Of course we know that it had taken ten years to become so disorderly, for this motion was passed in 1903 and the old original rules governing conduct in the halls were adopted in 1893, stating that "audible talking, studying in pairs or in groups, whistling, heavy walking and all other unnecessary noise in the halls and stairways are prohibited during class hours."

And then, occasionally, it was a little noisy in the library. Once upon a time Professor Newcomer commented upon the subject and thought the order was "very loose" and the names of some students were mentioned, but never mind, I will not give you away.

Did they have library rules then? I should say so, just listen to rules four and five from the Library Regulations, "During the time of recitations students are not to enter, nor are they to leave the library without permission of the Monitor in charge. Changes in the library are to be made at the same time that classes go from one room to another." "Noise, all studying aloud, all studying in groups or in pairs, and all communication except with the Monitor, are prohibited."

The boys in the early years were very bad, particularly in 1890 when Doctor Aylsworth felt it necessary in faculty meeting to make this motion, "That President Dungan admonish the students over Hallowe'en mischiefs." Did they ever do anything like that again—no not for a year.

But the most serious problem that the faculty had to deal with was "to keep the boys and girls in the straight and narrow way," every girl wanted a beau and every boy a sweetheart. Where did you get yours? Well you needn't tell—that is a secret you know. Did you ever violate that rule passed in 1893? "Young ladies and gentlemen students of the university are enjoined from such associations as are wasteful of time and improper in character. Strolling about in the evening, visiting each other's rooms or spending undue time in each other's company are considered improper and are forbidden." Almost twenty years later similar rules were passed. "Evening calls made by students should terminate by half past ten. Gentlemen will note this and govern themselves accordingly." "Young ladies shall not entertain gentlemen callers oftener than once a week." Nevertheless as in the days of Noah, students have continued "eating and drinking and marrying"—yes eating and drinking at class parties, banquets and festivals and making love (I guess they call it) in the halls and vacant rooms,



going to programs and church, in fact just everywhere. Perhaps the faculty was right but we didn't see it that way.

The faculty used to have great difficulty with the girls and it was "moved that the faculty discourage all display of dress at all college performances." They haven't had such troubles in recent years, there is no such display for the girls are satisfied with either "hobbles" or "hoops" and have become so economical that they wear the skirts six inches from the floor.

Did you ever hear about that male quartette, no not the one in 1911 that sang "I never will forget," but the one of 1898 which, although composed of different college classmen, desired to sit together in chapel. As this would be a violation of the rules regarding the seating in chapel a petition from the quartette was presented. Alas, the faculty did not see the wisdom in it all and the chapel was robbed of that wonderful music.

Then there has been some trouble with the janitors in the past. Perhaps they didn't sweep the floors quite clean or maybe they overslept and the air in the university building was just a little cool at 8 a. m., but the gravest error ever committed was the one when Professor Chamberlain was compelled to "report the negligence of the janitor in allowing dust to collect on the gas machine."

The faculty has always shown deep interest in the welfare of the student body, willing to do anything even to the providing of necessary equipment for their use. In 1891, Professor Harris was instructed "to buy a mirror, pitcher and bowl, by means of a fifty-cent quota from each member of the faculty, for the Young Women's waiting room at the college."

There have been some wonderful organizations in C. U. The Mathesians for example. One time they

asked for the privilege of giving an evening's program during commencement week. Dr. Aylsworth moved "that Sunday evening be granted." But they never showed the depth of intellect that was manifested in the Philo society. As proof of this fact note this program given by them April 25, 1905.

## The Philos

Song ..... "America"  
 "The Proper Time to Shuck Wheat".....Stephen J. Epler  
 "How Often Should we Curry Our Hogs?"..Elmer Child  
 "The Work of the Farmer's Eldest Daughter".....  
 ..... Clara De Forest  
 "Farm News".. .....Perry Marvel  
 Vocal Solo with Whistling Chorus.....Elsie Lomax  
 "How to Cure a Balky Horse or Mule".. .....Roy Lucas  
 "Some Good Ways of Separating a Calf from its  
 Mother Without Breaking the Heart of  
 Either".....Austin J. Hollingsworth  
 "Jolly Old Farmer".....Farmers' Chorus

In recent years the Calendar of Events given in the College Annual reminds us of by gone days.

September 25, 1907—Chancellor appoints whistling committee.

November 19, 1907—(From room 12) A sound like a mighty tempest. Only the debaters at work.

January 7, 1908—Freshmen mistake telephone bell for dinner bell, cut classes, and go to the "Dorm."

January 25, 1908—Dr. Beattie delivers chapel speech on "Thoroughness of Oskaloosa College."

March 10, 1908—Chapel speech by Chancellor Aylsworth on "Empty Seats."

October 7, 1909—Separate chapel. Sheep divided from goats.

October 29, 1909—Lost, strayed or stolen, the '11 Rock.

January 19, 1910—General wail, "Would that I had ditched less and studied more."

February 25, 1910—Highland Park beat Wesleyan. Cotner beat Highland Park. Therefore, Wesleyan won't play Cotner.

October 24, 1911—First call for Putnam's Psychology.

January 10, 1912—Second call for Putnam's Psychology.

January 17, 1912—Chancellor Oeschger lectures on "Choice Spirits" (preachers).

February 27, 1912—Third and last call for Putnam's Psychology. Show of hands. "Please, thank you."

May 12, 1912—Sneak day. Several immersions without confessions.

September 30, 1913—Prof. Young frightens freshmen into taking assigned seats.

October 3, 1913—Chancellor is afraid to call down Trustee Jeary for overrunning chapel time.

Variation in time has always been marked at Cotner. Someone says, "The bells were not rung on the dot today." Some students have watches that run a little slow we suppose for they can't quite make it by eight; the program was to begin at eight but certainly eight-fifteen is soon enough to go. Yes, we did have trouble with the clock until the '14 class gave us the new one. In 1909, Prof. Reeves was "made a committee on clocks," and at the next faculty meeting only one week later reported the "clock still running." Again we find "the ringing of the bells and the running of the clock" being among the subjects discussed by the faculty. Perhaps variations have been common and the old clock irregular, yet time has moved on in the same way; years have come and years have gone. Many strangers have come to Cotner and as classmates and friends have bidden goodbye to old C. U.; others take

our places and though we return we are strangers again. Yes, Cotner has given us much; the lessons we learned, the games we played, the joy we felt—it all comes back today and we smile and brush away a tear—and are happy.

## CHAPTER XX

### Commencements

Of all the pictures that hang on college memory's wall, the one of commencements are best of all. That happy week when studies were over and we were free from the burdens, we thought heavy. Yes, the final examinations of the week before were passed, they were not so hard after all, and we were free as youth itself. How the memories of the first commencement ever attended all come back today, as if it were only yesterday. Perhaps it was then we had our first beau or sweetheart, for it was a time when the lads and lasses somehow "got together." You say, we were foolish then; we are foolish still, for there is no place we would rather go than back to old C. U. for commencement. It's a great home-coming for we see so many of the old classmates and friends. And then, as student or visitor we enjoy the programs. We enjoy the Mathesian or Philo exercises because we are or were members of that society. Yes, there are the music and expression department programs, which recall happy associations. So it is, whether a "has been," "now are" or a "will be," commencement is a happy occasion.

A few of the many programs which have been given during commencement week in the years passed will not only recall these pleasant days but will help and encourage us to make true the dreams of youth, to build the aircastles of college days.

FIRST DECLAMATORY CONTEST OF COTNER UNIVERSITY  
June 19, 1890

Piano Solo....."Spring Song"  
Mrs. W. P. Stearns

Invocation.....  
Declamation....."The Fisherman's Wife"  
Miss Addie Harris

Declamation....."Mona's Waters"  
Miss Emaline Leavitt

Declamation....."The Modern Chain"  
Mr. J. H. Bicknell

Vocal Solo.....  
Mr. Chas. Hopper

Declamation....."The Clergyman's Story"  
Miss Sarah Harris

Declamation....."Regulus"  
Mr. Arthur C. Munson

Vocal Solo....."Gumbert's Waltz Song"  
Mrs. Greer

Declamation....."The Last Leap"  
Miss Alice Gadd

Declamation....."Grattan's Reply"  
Mr. Clarence Harris

Declamation....."The First Settler's Story"  
Miss Blanche Gregory

Vocal Solo.....  
Mr. Chas. Hopper

Decision of Judges.....

Judges—Gen'l J. R. Webster, Hon. Steward Dales, Miss  
Phoebe Elliot.

Referee—Prof. Rachel Lloyd.

## PROGRAM COMMENCEMENT DAY

June 14, 1894

Piano Solo, "Rhapsodie Hougroise".....*Liszt*

Miss May Z. Hughes

Invocation.....

The Ladies' Octet, "Legender".....*Mohring*Oration....."*The Province of Anglo Saxon*"

Fred S. Henry

Oration....."*Man and Evolution*"

Fred L. Sumpter

Oration....."*Liberty Under Law*"

Robert A. Schell

Quartette, "Ruy Blas".....*Mendelssohn*

Misses Beattie, Owings and Cone

Oration ..... "*Valedictory*"

William Oeschger

Annual Address.....

J. H. Garrison

Male Quartette, "Annie Laurie".....*Dudley Buck*

J. W. Hilton, S. A. Nesbitt, G. W. Walters, C. A. Finch

Benediction.....

## GRADUATING EXERCISES

June 11, 1896

Piano Quartette, "Overture to Zampa".....*Harold*

Invocation.....

Vocal Solo, "How Could I Vain Have Slumbered"

from Freischuetz.....*Weber*

Prof. M. Elvira Jones

Oration....."*International Arbitration*"

William T. Fisher

Oration....."*The New Woman*"

Meltha M. Miller

Oration....."*The Goal of Education*"

Samuel W. Christy

Oration.....	“ <i>God in Nature</i> ”
	Arthur K. Turner
Oration.....	“ <i>Life a Gain</i> ”
	Sarah L. Harris
Instrumental Solo, “ <i>Tannhaeuser March</i> ”	<i>Wagner-Liszt</i>
	Prof. May Z. Hughes
Oration.....	“ <i>Via Vitae</i> ”
	Alvin E. Evans
Oration.....	“ <i>The Fullness of Time</i> ”
	George C. Ritchey
Oration.....	“ <i>Dream of Life</i> ”
	Marie Blanche Smith
Valedictory.....	
	Raymond G. Aylsworth
Conferring of Degrees.....	
Vocal Quartette, “ <i>A Night in May</i> ”.....	<i>F. Abt</i>
Benediction.....	

## COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM, JUNE 13, 1907

The Festive Song.....	<i>Troyer</i>
	Cotner University Chorus
Spring Dawn.....	<i>Mason</i>
	Edna L. Wright, Carrie L. Hubbard
March.....	<i>Lola Miksch Sutton</i>
(Composed especially for the day, honoring our great Nebraska American)	
Cotner University Song.....	
	(With two additional verses by Clyde Cordner)
	Clay W. Longman Chorus
Conferring of Degrees.....	
	Chancellor W. P. Aylsworth

## COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM, JUNE 9, 1910

Valse .....	<i>Moszkowski</i>
	Mrs. Gertrude Sumpter
Invocation.....	
	Rev. H. O. Pritchard



Mattinata .....	<i>Tosti</i>
Love's Question.....	<i>Coverly</i>
Mrs. Raymond Aylsworth	
Address.....	
Rev. A. D. Harmon	
Gypsy Dances.....	<i>Nacher</i>
Miss Genevieve Fodrea	
Conferring of Degrees and Awarding of Diplo- mas and Certificates.....	
Chancellor W. P. Aylsworth	
Italia .....	<i>Donizetti</i>
University Chorus	

COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM, JUNE 11 1914

March .....	<i>Hollander</i>
Miss Edna Johnson	
Fifth Symphony.....	<i>Beethoven</i>
Miss Clara Dill	Miss Eula Scarce
Miss Burl Berry	Miss Zella Grim
Invocation.....	
Rev. H. H. Harmon	
My Thought of You (from Love's Dial) <i>E. L. Ashford</i>	
Miss Hettie M. Turner	
Commencement Address.....	
Rev. W. F. Richardson, Kansas City	
Conferring of Degrees and Awarding of Diplo- mas and Certificates.	

One evening in each commencement week is given to the School of Music. Everyone looks forward to an evening of unalloyed pleasure. The program given in 1912 will call to our minds these musical treats of the past.

## COTNER SCHOOL OF MUSIC—Season 1911-12

## COMMENCEMENT RECITAL

Saturday Evening, June 1, at 8:00 o'clock

University Chapel

## PROGRAM

Rondo .....	<i>Field</i>
Maid of Ganges.....	<i>Mendelssohn-Liszt</i>
Madge Murphy	
Longing .....	<i>Worden</i>
Ye Merry Birds.....	<i>Gumbert</i>
Hettie Turner	
Hark, Hark, the Lark.....	<i>Schubert-Liszt</i>
March in D flat.....	<i>Hollaender</i>
Hazel Reeves	
Everywhere .....	<i>Oley Speaks</i>
Flower Rain.....	<i>Schneider</i>
H. D. Shellenberger	
Egeria opus 35.....	<i>Kroeger</i>
Zora Grinstead	
Laughing Streamlet .....	<i>Spross</i>
Delizia .....	<i>Beethoven</i>
Maurine Longman	
Adagio catible.....	<i>Beethoven</i>
Ada Burton	
A Rose Garden.....	<i>Spross</i>
Will o' the Wisp.....	<i>Spross</i>
Bernice Weekly Marvel	
Larghetto .....	<i>MacDowell</i>
Bessie Young	
Recompense .....	<i>Hammond</i>
Honor and Arms.....	<i>Handel</i>
L. J. Strain	

One program from each of the literary societies will rekindle in our minds the memory of many good programs rendered.

## MATHESIAN SOCIETY, JUNE 13, 1895

Piano Solo, "Loreley".....	<i>Han Seeley</i>
Mrs. F. L. Sumpter	
Invocation.....	
Salutory.....	
Miss Grace Wiles	
Speech.....	<i>"Christ in History"</i>
J. H. McSparran	
Vocal Solo, "Jerusalem".....	<i>Henry Parker</i>
Mabel Ford	
Sermon Outline.....	<i>"Discipleship"</i>
L. A. Hussong	
Selection.....	<i>Ideal Mandolin Club</i>
Recitation.....	<i>"Aunt Parson's Story"</i>
Lucy Cone	
Oration.....	<i>"The Progress of Truth"</i>
D. W. Ohern	
Song, "Therefore with Angels".....	<i>V. Novello</i>
Aeolian Quartette	
Speech.....	<i>"The Model Man"</i>
H. J. Kennedy	

## PILOMATHIAN COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

Friday Evening, June 7, 1907

*Part I*

March.....	<i>Lola Miksch Sutton</i>
Ruth Vanderzee, Carrie Hubbard	
Invocation.....	
Oration.....	<i>"Joan of Arc"</i>
Howard Britt	
Vocal Solo, "My King".....	<i>Frank Lynes</i>
Nell Roggy	
Address.....	<i>"An Echo from the Past"</i>
S. J. Epler, '05	
Quartet, "The Cooper's Song" (Baccaccio) Von Suppe	
Messrs. Olmsted, Ling, Rethmeyer, Kleihauer	

*Part II*

## ORIGINAL PLAYETTE

*"There's Many a Slip 'Twixt the Cup and the Lip"*

by

Grace Trowbridge, Orville Johnson, Elsie Britt

Dramatis Personae

Gwendolin Carr.....Helen Demarest  
 Alice Osborne, friend of Gwendolin, Grace Trowbridge  
 Herbert Francis, medical student, Cleveland Kleihauer  
 Richard Luverne ,young lawyer, Austin Hollingsworth  
 Hon. Chas. Montrose, dude from England, Elmer Child

## SYNOPSIS OF PLAYETTE

Herbert and Richard are close friends. Richard is in love with Alice and thinks that Herbert also loves her. Alice prefers one of the young men, Gwendolin, the other. The dude tries to complicate matters still further, but fails. At last each one discovers the real state of affairs.

The Expression department usually entertains the commencement audience by rendering some good play. Both modern and Shakespearean plays have been given with much credit. Enjoy them again by reading the programs.

## SHAKESPEARE'S TRAGEDY OF HAMLET

by the School of Expression, June 8, 1909

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

Claudius, King of Denmark.....Leon Moomaw  
 Hamlet, Prince of Denmark.....Clyde Cordner  
 Ghost of King Hamlet, father of the Prince.....  
 .....Ernest O. Sweaney  
 Polonius, the Lord Chamberlain.....Floyd Bash  
 Laertes, son of Polonius.....Bert Wilson  
 Horatio, friend to Hamlet.....Dan Troxel  
 Rosencrantz, Courtier.....Arthur Longman  
 Guildenstern, Courtier.....Augustus Brokaw

Osric, Courtier.....	Roy Boyce
Player King.....	Clarence Miles
Player Queen.....	Mattie Britt
Second Player.....	Bess Van Buskirk
Gertrude, Queen of Denmark.....	Maurine Longman
Ophelia, daughter of Polonius.....	Bess Kirk
Marcellus, Officer.....	George Dill
Bernardo, Officer.....	Homer Young
Francisco, a soldier.....	Clarence Miles
First Grave Digger.....	Ted Corder
Second Grave Digger.....	George Dill
Priest.....	Homer Young
Attendant to the Queen.....	Hannah Jacobson

"OUR ALMA MATER"

by the School of Expression, June 7, 1910

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Marcus Aurelius Gaskill, Professor of Latin with a bug hobby.....	Peter Cope
Frank Harley, a Student.....	Clarence Miles
Bush Eggleston, a Student "Bush with a Push"....	
.....	Ted Corder
Percy Wilkins, a Student.....	Leon Moomaw
Olaf Nielson, Olaf the "Assassin" a Student.....	
.....	Rollin Squires
Brown, a Student.....	Roy Scott
Tin Star Shine, Constable.....	Bash Armstrong
Mr. Fish Foregotson, a Loan Shark.....	Ben Ogden
Carius } Kappa Omicron-Nus { .....	Dan Troxel
Hope } .....	Ossie Wilmeth
Olson } .....	Ben Ogden
Minerva Hope, Prof. Gaskill's Niece, Hannah Jacobson	
Ethel Wilkins, Percy's sister.....	Agatha Gregg
Mrs. Poore, who boards students.....	Bessie Van Buskirk
Jane Hampton, a Co-ed.....	Hilina Benson
Mary Madden, a Co-ed.....	Olga Dye
Co-eds.....	Fannie Adams, Hetty Turner, Mabel Cutter

During the later years, one of the most enjoyable features of this great week is the senior class play. It is regarded as a sort of climax to their four years of strenuous work. We give the programs that you may read and enjoy them again.

### THE MELTING POT

*By Israel Zangwill*

Presented by the Class of 1911

#### DRAMATIS PERSONAE

David Quixano.....	Clyde Cordner
Mendel Quixano.....	Leon Moomaw
Herr Papplemeister.....	Arthur Ritchey
Quincy Davenport.....	Clarence Miles
Baron Revendal.....	Homer Young
Baroness Revendal.....	Helen Demarest
Frau Quixano.....	Mayme Philpott
Kathleen.....	Besse Van Buskirk
Vera Revendal.....	Wenona Wilkinson

### THE YOKE

*by Elizabeth Miller*

Rendered by the Class of 1912

#### CAST OF CHARACTERS

Maneptah, Pharaoh of the Exodus.....	W. J. Carry
Queen.....	Mary M. Hilton
Rameses, Son of Maneptah, Crown Prince.....	
.....	Robert B. Lemmon
Ta-User, a princess, chosen by Egypt for Rameses'	
Queen.....	Florence Leavitt
Harhat, Fan-bearer to Pharaoh.....	Orion P. Latimer
Masanath, Daughter of Harhat.....	Daisie McClintock
Rachel, an Israelitish maiden.....	Ethel Ranney
Deborah, Rachel's attendant.....	Mary M. Hilton
Kenkenes, a young Egyptian sculptor.....	Dan C. Troxel
Moses, the lawgiver.....	A. D. Brokaw
Aaron, Moses' brother.....	Dan C. Troxel

Loi, High Priest to Amen.....	A. D. Brokaw
Guard,.....	J. M. Packer
Servant.....	Glenn Leavitt

THE SERVANT IN THE HOUSE  
Presented by the Class of 1913

CAST OF CHARACTERS

James Personby Makeshyft, D. D., the Most Reverend, the Lord Bishop of Lancashire.....	Earl N. Griggs
The Reverend William Smythe, Vicar.....	C. E. Lemmon
Auntie, the Vicar's Wife.....	Maurine Longman
Mary, their niece.....	Edna Hilton
Mr. Robert Symth, a gentleman of necessary occupation.....	Ben Ogden
Rogers, a page-boy.....	Avery Morton
Manson, a butler.....	Rodney McQuary

THE LOST PARADISE  
*by Ludwig Fulda*  
Given by the Class of 1914

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Andrew Knowlton, owner of the Knowlton iron works .....	Harry Hill
Reuben Warner, Superintendent of "The Works" .....	Ross Williams
Ralph Standish, the last leaf of the family tree .....	Ed Britt
Bob Appleton, hail fellow well met, and met very often .....	Ernest Molloy
Mr. Fletcher, Mr. Knowlton's man of business. ....	Carl Per Lee
Joe Barrett, foreman.....	Henry Hanner
Schwartz.....	John Shagool
Old Bensel.....	C. C. Smith
Hyatt.....	Lauren Christy

*Men at "The Works"*

Billy Hopkins, a spark from the factory furnace  
 ..... Albert Austin  
 Mrs. Knowlton, a motherly worlding, Andrew  
 Knowltons wife..... Anna Oeschger  
 Margaret Knowlton (their daughter), a pearl that  
 the toilers at "The Works" have set.....  
 ..... Nettie Sherman  
 Polly Fletcher (Mr. Fletcher's niece), a country  
 slip in city soil..... Mabel Cutter  
 Julia, maid at Mr. Knowlton's... .. Mabel Christy  
 Nell..... Minnie Moomaw  
 "Cinders"..... Madge Hill  
 Kate..... Lela Witham

*Girls at "The Works"*

SYNOPSIS

ACT I—The home of the Knowlton's—the place  
 "Where the Pearl is Set."

ACT II—A glimpse into the life of the laboring class.  
 Mr. Warner, the superintendent of the works, has long  
 been in sympathy with the workmen, for he knows and  
 realizes the poverty in which they live. He has plead  
 with Mr. Knowlton in vain for a betterment of their  
 condition. Here we see "How the Pearl is Set."

ACT III—A very real but pathetic view of the dis-  
 tress and wretchedness which exists in the home life  
 of the factory people. Here is discussed the situation  
 as it is seen, especially by Schwartz and Nell.

ACT IV—Nell asks Margaret to go and see where  
 they live. She goes, and is convinced of the fact that  
 her father is doing much for her at the expense of the  
 workmen. Margaret secures from her father the right  
 to grant the demand of the laborers.

The play closes with those in wealth and those in  
 poverty clasping hands and looking forward to the  
 emancipation of the laboring class.



THE CHARITY BALL  
*By Blasco and DeMills*

Presented by the Class of 1915

CAST OF CHARACTERS

John Van Buren, a New York Clergyman.....	Alden Hill
Dick Van Buren, his brother.....	Leslie Strain
Judge Knox, of the Supreme Court.....	Peter Cope
Alec Robinson.....	Carey Martin
Frankly Cruger, King of Wall Street. ....	Lawrence Dry
Creighton, a stock broker.....	Robert Conley
Betts.....	Elmer Strain
Paxton.....	Ernest Briggs
Cain (child part).....	Paul Nichols
Ann Cruger.....	Hallie Lemon
Phyllis Lee.....	Cleo Dixon
Bess Van Buren.....	Edna Ranney
Mrs. Van Buren.....	Celestine Brock
Mrs. De Peyster.....	Mrs. Cope

Each commencement has brought a speaker of prominence to Cotner to deliver the annual address. These addresses have been listened to with pleasure and have made an indelible impression upon the minds of the hearers. A partial list of the names of the orators is given:

1891 B. W. Johnson	1906 J. H. Garrison
1893 H. W. Everest	1907 W. J. Bryan
1894 J. H. Garrison	1908 Charles Medbury
1897 W. F. Richardson	1909 Burris Jenkins
1898 B. O. Aylsworth	1910 A. D. Harmon
1899 Benjamin L. Smith	1911 G. B. Van Arsdell
1900 B. J. Radford	1912 Charles A. Finch
1903 J. V. Coombs	1913 E. L. Rouse
1904 Mr. Dutcher	1914 W. F. Richardson
1905 R. W. Abberley	1915 Charles Medbury

One of the last programs at each commencement is given by the Alumni Association. The following was the list of toasts responded to upon June 9, 1915:

## ANNUAL BREAKFAST

## TOASTS

Nettie Sherman, *Toastmistress*

Conservation	Saves	Dollars..	Minnie Y. Moomaw,'14
Observation	Causes	Enterprise....	Lawrence Dry,'15
Temptation	Often	Fortifies.....	Hugh Lomax,'05
Navigation	Rules	Empires.....	Clarence Miles,'11
Enervation	Never	Attains.....	Edith Burgess,'13
Reputation	Sees	Triumph.....	E. M. Johnson,'07

*Seven-Thirty A. M. University Church*

And when commencement is over, alumni, students, and friends are all "going home." "Packing up" is the work of the hour. Listen to the conversation you might hear: "Goodbye old man, you are coming back to the class reunion in 191....?" "Yes, sure." "Pleasant vacation Miss ———, you are coming back next year?" "Good luck until we meet again, fight hard, our Alma Mater is expecting great things of you." "I will do my best." Those who are most reluctant to leave are the graduating class of that year. Perhaps they are having their last class party. They all talk awhile, finish up all class business, and perhaps sing a song or two and then say goodbye with tears that won't stay back, filling their eyes and a lump rises in their throats. Whether teacher, student or alumnus, all say goodbye and with a hand clasp that rings true; go into the great world to "fight a good fight, finish the course and keep the faith."

## CHAPTER XXI

### Cotner Alumni

To determine the value of a farm one inquires as to the harvest it yields; to estimate the ability of a man one looks up his record. Likewise a university can be measured by this same standard, that is, its record or the product or harvest it yields.

The success of a university may be measured by three things; its ability to draw young men and women into its midst and enroll them as students; its power to hold these students until graduation and lastly the success attained by these graduates after leaving the university. Hundreds of students have been attracted to Cotner and at the twenty-six commencements already held two hundred and two persons have been awarded the Bachelor of Arts degree, and twenty-one the Master of Arts, in addition to a large number who have received diplomas from the music, expression or commercial departments. This does not take into consideration another large group, who have received teachers' certificates from the normal department. At only two commencements, the first and third, has Cotner failed to confer the A. B. degree upon someone.

The school was opened in the autumn of 1889, and at the close of the second year the first graduation exercises were held. Miss Ellen B. Atwater and Mr. E. D. Harris had the privilege of first calling Cotner "our Alma Mater." The average size of the twenty-four graduating classes is over eight members. Three times in the history of the school, in the years 1897, 1899 and 1904, the graduating class consisted of but one member. These years were following the financial crisis when the student body was smaller than usual. The largest graduating class completed its work in 1914.

It was a peculiar and happy coincidence that this should be the twenty-fifth anniversary of the school and that there should be twenty-five graduates.

From the beginning Cotner has been a co-educational institution. The opportunities offered to women have been equal to those offered to men. The following table gives the number of men and women in each class and indicates that the proportion among the graduates is almost two to one in favor of the men.

Year	Men	Women	Year	Men	Women
1891.....	1	1	1904.....	1	0
1893.....	3	2	1905.....	5	0
1894.....	4	0	1906.....	3	3
1895.....	4	3	1907.....	9	2
1896.....	7	3	1908.....	5	5
1897.....	0	1	1909.....	13	5
1898.....	3	1	1910.....	4	1
1899.....	1	0	1911.....	10	9
1900.....	2	2	1912.....	6	4
1901.....	3	2	1913.....	8	13
1902.....	5	1	1914.....	14	11
1903.....	2	0	1915.....	13	7
				—	—
			Totals.....	126	76

It has often been said that the saddest thing about college life is, the severing of friendship ties. Men and women enter the university at the age when friendships are most easily formed. College students are bound closely together during four years of association. Upon commencement day every friendship tie is broken and the graduates are scattered in every direction to take up the various vocations of life. A tabulation noting the location of Cotner's alumni shows how widely they are scattered.

State	No. of Alumni	State	No. of Alumni
Nebraska .....	94	Indiana .....	4
California .....	5	India .....	3
Oregon .....	5	China .....	1
Montana .....	4	Philippines .....	2
Wisconsin .....	2	Iowa .....	1
Maryland .....	3	Michigan .....	1
Colorado .....	6	Missouri .....	3
Utah .....	2	Oklahoma .....	1
Washington, D. C.....	1	Texas .....	2
Kansas .....	17	Canada .....	1
Connecticut .....	7	Minnesota .....	4
Washington .....	8	Illinois .....	3
Wyoming .....	3	North Dakota .....	1
Idaho .....	3	Arkansas .....	2
Ohio .....	4	Kentucky .....	1

The following table gives a classification of the alumni of Cotner into ten groups according to the year of graduation.

Class	Teachers	Ministers	Missionary	Home-maker	Lawyers	Doctors	Business	Farmers	Unclassified	Deceased	Total
1891 .....								1		1	2
1893 .....		3	1	1							5
1894 .....	2	1					1				4
1895 .....	2	2		2			1				7
1896 .....	3	1		2		1	1	1		1	10
1897 .....	1										1
1898 .....		1	1	1						1	4
1899 .....							1				1
1900 .....	2	1					1				4
1901 .....		1	1	1			1	1			5
1902 .....		1		1		1	3				6
1903 .....		1								1	2
1904 .....	1										1
1905 .....		4								1	5
1906 .....	1	2	2	1							6
1907 .....	1	3		1			1		5		11
1908 .....	1	2		3			1		2	1	10
1909 .....	3	6	4	2			1		2		18
1910 .....	2	2							1		5
1911 .....	6	4	1	3	1		2	1	1		19
1912 .....		3		2	1			1	3		10
1913 .....	10	2				1			8		21
1914 .....	8	6	1	5		1	2		2		25
1915 .....	10	4		1					5		20
Total.....	53	50	11	26	2	4	16	5	29	6	202

Twenty-six of Cotner's graduates have been classified as "home-makers." To some it may seem that these women are doing but little in this world of many needs. Perhaps their names will not be written upon the scroll of fame, yet each is proud to be "just a helper" to the one whose life she shares. There is no more important or beautiful institution known to man than the home. Let us then pay our tribute; here's to the queen of the most sacred of all institutions—the home.

Four Cotner alumni have taken a law course and two are now practitioners in that profession. There is a large field for the clean, straight forward lawyer and there is no reason why a Cotner graduate should not attain prominence in the practice of law. Let us look farther among the great vocations of life to find the remainder of Cotner's men and women. In the medical profession we are not disappointed for here are four, curing the physical ills of the body and speaking a word that will uplift the soul. Yes, there are five farmers. There is perhaps no vocation in which the surroundings are more beautiful, the environment purer or the opportunity greater for the farmer "feeds the world." This is an age of "big business" which demands "push" as the life of enterprise, honesty as the only policy, and the "delivery of the goods" as the final test of success. The sixteen Cotner alumni are meeting every demand in the business arena.

If all Cotner alumni could gather about their university home there would be six vacant chairs. Miss Ellen B. Atwater, a member of the first graduating class of Cotner, has been called to her reward. She was for a time an efficient teacher at Cotner and for many years filled an important position in the St. Louis High School as instructor in history. Howard H. Jones, of the class of 1898, is another absent member.

He was also a teacher, having spent several years in Cotner as instructor in science. Miss Donna Enyart, '08 was taken in the prime of life when the years were full of promise. She was making preparation for greater usefulness when the golden cord was severed. Mrs. Blanche Smith Latta, '96, was suddenly called from the happy home over which she presided, leaving many friends and loved ones to mourn her loss. Howard L. Johnson, '05, was a man of great promise, having just been called to the chair of philosophy at Bethany College, West Virginia, when death came. Many expectations for a wonderful career were thus ended. T. Milo Keith, '03, for ten years a teacher at Cotner, was a great example of what zeal and determination can do. He was the embodiment of scholarship and manhood.

The group that is placed in the column as the unclassified, according to the table, include those who are engaged in work not represented by any of the other headings, taking care of aged parents, working at the old home or for reasons better known to themselves than anyone else, are prevented from entering the active arena. It also includes those who are in other universities pursuing studies leading to higher degrees.

There are four of the unclassified who deserve special mention. Mr. George C. Aydelott, '07, is engaged in lyceum and chautauqua work filling about one hundred dates during the summer. In the fall and winter months his time is completely taken, giving lectures in almost every part of the United States. His principal lectures are "The Man of the Hour" and "The Twentieth Century Puritan." Prior to his beginning this work he was engaged in the ministry. He was pastor of the Christian church at Humboldt, Nebraska, Soniat Avenue Christian Church, New Orleans, Louisiana and the church at Muskogee, Oklahoma.



E. J. Sias, '07, is also in the lecture and chautauqua work. He has filled fifteen hundred dates in thirty states of the Union. All dates which Mr. Sias can fill are sold until 1920. For the past two years addresses have been given before several hundred commercial clubs. Special attention is being given to the "community interest" problem. Before he decided to give his entire time to lecturing, he was pastor of the Frankfort, Indiana, Christian Church, which had a membership of over fourteen hundred. The tabernacle Christian Church of Lincoln owes a special debt of gratitude to Mr. Sias. Between lecture engagements he acted as pastor for this new organization while they were struggling to make a start. To Mr. Sias this was a great financial sacrifice, but to the church an invaluable help.

E. M. Johnson, '07, is doing a commendable work as general secretary of the Nebraska Prison Association. The purpose of this association is to "assist discharged prisoners to get the right kind of a start in life after their imprisonment. Since the parole system has been put into operation there are few prisoners who stay in the prison until the expiration of their maximum sentence. They receive a parole which enables them to go out while under charge of the state to show their ability to take their rightful place in society. In making the parole law, the state failed to make sufficient provision for the paroled man. He must have employment before he can leave the prison. He needs means to reach the place of his work and perhaps the most important, he needs a friend. The Association is giving its attention to supplying that which the state has neglected to supply." As general secretary, Mr. Johnson has this work under his supervision. He is also chaplain of the penitentiary. In this capacity he has charge of the religious work in the prison. The regular Sunday services consist of songs, prayers and

sermon. The Sunday school which follows the preaching service is supplied with volunteer teachers from the outside. All of the inmates are expected to attend the chapel service but the Sunday school attendance is voluntary and about half of the prison company come to the classes. It is gratifying to know that eighty-five per cent of the prisoners, assisted upon leaving the penitentiary, are living in right relations to society. Cotner should be proud of Mr. Johnson's work. He also has a good record as a pastor and evangelist.

R. Kent Beattie, '95, is one of the noted graduates of Cotner. His education was received in the Oskaloosa, Iowa, and Lincoln High Schools and Cotner and Nebraska Universities. His major work was always in botany. For thirteen years he was an instructor in Washington state college being head professor of botany for nine years. While there he constantly represented the State College in Farmers and Teachers Institutes. He is now plant pathologist for the Federal Historical Board, Washington, D. C. He is a member of the National Scientific Association, The Association of American Botanists and other organizations of the same kind. Mr. Beattie has done extensive work in plant investigation which has been printed in bulletin form by the Washington agricultural station or by the United States Bureau of Agriculture. One of the most interesting is "Plants Used for Food by Sheep on the Mica Mountain Summer Range." Three books have been written by Mr. Beattie and C. V. Piper entitled "The Flora of the Palouse Region," "Flora of South-eastern Washington and Adjacent Idaho" and "Flora of the Northwest Coast."

To receive the A. B. degree is good, but there are still goals that are higher for those who are eager for knowledge. A carpenter can complete his building;

a farmer finish plowing his field, but a student can never finish his education. Something new is learned every day whether in or out of college. One of the tests of a true college is its ability to inspire its students to go higher after they have secured the A. B. degree. The following are the Cotner graduates who have secured higher degrees and the universities from which they have taken them:

Ellen B. Atwater, A. M.....	University of Chicago
E. D. Harris, M. Sc.....	Cotner University
A. D. Harmon, A. M.....	Cotner University
F. S. Hemry, A. M.....	University of Nebraska
William Oeschger, B. D.....	University of Chicago
L. P. Bush, A. M.....	Cotner University
C. A. Finch, A. M.....	Cotner University
R. G. Aylsworth, A. M.....	Yale Univeristy
Alvin E. Evans, A. M.....	University of Nebraska
Alvin E. Evans, Ph. D.....	University of Michigan
Grace E. Young, A. M.....	Cotner University
J. W. Hilton, A. M.....	University of Nebraska
T. Milo Keith, A. M.....	University of Nebraska
M. R. Gilmore, Ph. D.....	University of Nebraska
Cleveland Kleihauer, A. M.....	University of Nebraska
Claire Armstrong, A. M. and B. D.....	Yale University
B. J. Brethouwer, A. M.....	University of Nebraska
Leon A. Moomaw, A. M.....	University of Nebraska
John G. Alber, A. M.....	University of Nebraska
W. J. Carry, A. M.....	Cotner University
Edward Kechley, A. M.....	Cotner University

Those now working for higher degrees are:

E. H. Longman.....	Yale University
Clay W. Longman.....	Yale University
Arthur Longman.....	Yale University
W. L. Watson.....	University of Nebraska
Lucile Brock.....	University of Nebraska
Edith Burgess.....	University of Nebraska

E. N. Griggs.....	Yale University
Rodney McQuary.....	Yale University
Robert Conley.....	University of Nebraska
Carl Worden.....	University of Nebraska

## ALUMNI OF COTNER UNIVERSITY

1891

Ellen B. Atwater .....	Deceased
E. D. Harris, farmer .....	Lanthers, Wyoming

1893

R. W. Abberly, Mangolia Avenue Christian Church.....	Los Angeles, California
John H. Bicknell, secretary of College Board, Cotner University .....	Bethany, Nebraska
Alice Gadd (Harmon), home-maker.....	Cable, Wisconsin
A. D. Harmon, professor of Sociology (elect) Cotner. ....	Cable, Wisconsin
Cora E. Hemry, C. W. B. M. secretary for Nebraska.. ...	Lincoln, Nebraska

1894

F. S. Hemry, professor Modern Languages in Jacob Tome's Institute. ....	Port Deposit, Maryland
R. A. Schell, pastor First Christian Church.....	Boulder, Colorado
F. L. Sumpter, business.....	Salt Lake City, Utah
Wm. Oeschger, Chancellor Cotner University. Bethany, Nebraska	

1895

R. Kent Beattie, U. S. Horticultural Dept. ....	Washington, D. C.
L. P. Bush, professor of Philosophy, Cotner University.....	Bethany, Nebraska
Addie Harris (Holmburg), home-maker .....	Casper, Wyoming
Minnie Leavitt, teacher.....	Fowler, Montana
J. H. McSparran, pastor .....	Meridian, Idaho
Chas. A. Finch, pastor, First Christian Church.....	Fayetteville, Arkansas
Canna Wiles, (Finch), home-maker.....	Fayetteville, Arkansas

1896

R. G. Aylsworth, Civil Engineer, B. & M. R. R.....	Denver, Colorado
Wilford C. Christy, farmer .....	Glendora, California
Alvin E. Evans, professor of Latin in Washington State College.....	Pullman, Washington

W. T. Fisher, Department of Religious Education, Phillips  
Bible Institute .....Canton, Ohio  
Sarah Harris (Jones), home-maker.....Waco, Nebraska  
John M. Howie, professor of Mathematics State Normal  
.....Peru, Nebraska  
Meltha Miller (Fisher), homemaker.....Canton, Ohio  
George C. Ritchey, pastor, First Christian Church.....  
.....Monmouth, Oregon  
Blanche Smith (Latta).....Deceased  
A. K. Turner, physician.....Petaluma, California

1897

Grace Effie Young professor of French and German, Cotner  
University.....Bethany, Nebraska

1898

Kittie Austin (Aylsworth). homemaker.....Denver, Colorado  
J. W. Hilton, pastor, East Side Church.....Lincoln, Nebraska  
Howard H. Jones.....Deceased  
Grant K. Lewis, secretary American Christian Missionary  
Society.....Cincinnati, Ohio

1899

Frank L. Evans, lumber business.....Hills City, Idaho

1900

Henry J. Kennedy, pastor.....Jewell, Kansas  
Walter H. Monroe, banker.....Los Angeles, California  
Elizabeth P. Ritchie, librarian.....Kalispell, Montana  
Jennie B. Ritchie, teacher.....Otis Orchard, Wyoming

1901

Clara Austin (Monroe), homemaker.....Los Angeles, California  
Evelyn Hanna, stenographer.....Lincoln, Nebraska  
Harry C. Parmenter, farmer.....Yutan, Nebraska  
Freeman L. Pettit, pastor, First Christian Church.....  
.....Independence, Kansas  
Clarence F. Swander, state secretary, Christian Missionary  
Society.....Portland, Oregon

1902

Daisy Aitken (Seybolt), homemaker.....Ashland, Nebraska  
Earl E. Boyd, physician.....Central City, Nebraska  
Harvey M. Johnson, business.....Cleveland, Ohio  
Fred Meredith, business.....Lincoln, Nebraska  
Elmer E. Meredith, business.....Omaha, Nebraska  
C. A. Sias, pastor.....Carlton, Oregon

## 1903

T. Milo Keith. . . . . Deceased  
 Willard L. Mellinger, pastor . . . . . Portland, Oregon

## 1904

Melvin R. Gilmore, Curator Museum, University of North  
 Dakota. . . . . Bismark, North Dakota

## 1905

Stephen J. Epler, pastor. . . . . Fairfield, Nebraska  
 Grant Hamm, pastor . . . . . Wallowa, Oregon  
 Howard L. Johnson. . . . . Deceased  
 Hugh L. Lomax pastor, Budd Park Church. . . . .  
 . . . . . Kansas City, Missouri  
 Manson E. Miller, pastor. . . . . Kearney, Nebraska

## 1906

Clara Aylsworth (Kleihauer), homemaker Seattle, Washington  
 Clarence C. Drummond, missionary. . . . . Harda, India  
 Lucile Ford, missionary . . . . . Mahoba, India  
 Lulu Harding (Smith), teacher . . . . . Bethany, Nebraska  
 Roy J. Lucas, pastor . . . . . Bellaire, Kansas  
 Kenneth Roland, business . . . . . Clay Center, Kansas

## 1907

George Aydelott, lecturer. . . . . Bethany, Nebraska  
 Edward Clutter, evangelist . . . . . Bethany, Nebraska  
 Clara DeForest (Emery), homemaker. . . . . Salt Lake City, Utah  
 W. A. Dobson, student in Chiropractic School. . . . . Davenport, Iowa  
 Mary A. Dobson, student in Chiropractic School . . . . .  
 . . . . . Davenport, Iowa  
 Austin J. Hollingsworth, pastor, Temple Church. . . . .  
 . . . . . Kansas City, Kansas  
 Edward M. Johnson, chaplain State Penitentiary, secretary  
 Prison Reform. . . . . Bethany, Nebraska  
 Cleveland Kleihauer, pastor, University Church. . . . .  
 . . . . . Seattle, Washington  
 G. M. Jacobs, business . . . . . Seattle Washington  
 Ernest J. Sias, lecturer. . . . . Lincoln, Nebraska  
 E. E. Smith, professor of Biology, Cotner University. . . . .  
 . . . . . Bethany, Nebraska

## 1908

Claire Armstrong, pastor, Harlem Avenue Church. . . . .  
 . . . . . Baltimore, Maryland  
 Evelyn Corbin, teacher. . . . . Sumner, Washington  
 Mabel Davies (Tookey) homemaker. . . . . Hooper, Nebraska

Donna Enyart. .... Deceased  
 Mary Enyart Armstrong, homemaker ... Baltimore, Maryland  
 Edward Kechley, pastor ... Louiston, Montana  
 Clay W. Longman, graduate student, Yale University.. . .  
 .... New Haven, Connecticut  
 Edward H. Longman graduate student, Yale University.. . .  
 .... New Haven, Connecticut  
 Nellie Phillips Eidson, homemaker.. . . Sligo, Colorado  
 Marion A. Swiger, business.. . . Lincoln, Nebraska

## 1909

Floyd Bash, pastor.. . . Highland, Kansas  
 Ada Bash (Hunt), homemaker. . . Minneapolis, Minnesota  
 Ray E. Hunt, pastor, Grand Avenue Church.. . .  
 .... Minneapolis, Minnesota  
 Howard Britt, business ... Lincoln, Nebraska  
 Elsei Brtt (Child). missionary work . . . San Antonio, Texas  
 Elmer Child, missionary work..... San Antonio, Texas  
 B. J. Brethouwer, teacher..... Normal, Nebraska  
 Charles E. Cobbey, pastor, First Christian Church.....  
 .... Omaha, Nebraska  
 Clara Dill, missionary work..... Hazel Green, Kentucky  
 Ford A. Ellis pastor..... Traverse City, Michigan  
 Edith E. Jones, teacher ... Long Island, Kansas  
 Orville Johnson..... Philippine Islands  
 B. F. Lively, pastor.. . . Mabton, Washington  
 Arthur Longman, graduate student, Yale University.....  
 .... New Haven, Connecticut  
 Amarilla Smith (Foote), homemaker..... White Pine, Montana  
 Joseph E. Smith, professor of history, Eureka College.....  
 .... Eureka Illinois  
 Ernest O. Sweaney, pastor. .... North Bend, Nebraska  
 Bert Wilson, western secretary of Foreign Christian Mis-  
 sionary Society. .... Kansas City Missouri

## 1910

Ethel Ireland, teacher..... Gordon, Nebraska  
 Orven H. Loomis, business and pastor..... Mound City, Missouri  
 Thomas Perry, pastor..... Cherokee, Oklahoma  
 E. L. Rouse, Dean State Normal..... Peru Nebraska  
 LeRoy W. Watson, graduate student, Nebraska State Uni-  
 versity..... Lincoln, Nebraska

## 1911

John G. Alber, pastor, South Omaha Church.....  
 .... South Omaha, Nebraska  
 Merle Aspinwall, farmer.. . . Bethany, Nebraska

Clyde Cordner, mining business .....	Central City, Colorado
Helen Demarest (Squires), homemaker .. ..	Crete, Nebraska
George Dill, banker .. .	Eldorado, Nebraska
Clarence Miles, lawyer .. .	Lincoln, Nebraska
Leon A. Moomaw, professor of History and Social Science Cotner University .. .	Bethany, Nebraska
Vera Moomaw (Walford), homemaker.....	Lincoln Nebraska
Ernest Parminter, principal of High School.....	Elmwood, Nebraska
Alma Perrine, teacher... ..	Mitchell, Nebraska
Mayme Philpott, teacher .....	Omaha, Nebraska
Arthur Ritchey, pastor .. .	York, Nebraska
Joanna Somers, librarian Cotner University.	Bethany, Nebraska
Bessie Van Buskirk .. .	Merna, Nebraska
Bertha Wilson, teacher in High School.....	Alliance, Nebraska
Wenona Wilkinson, missionary to China.....	Nankin, China
Stella Witham (Hall), homemaker. ....	Canton, Nebraska
Frank Woten, pastor.....	Gering, Nebraska
Homer J. Young, pastor .. .	Alliance, Nebraska

## 1912

Augustus Brokaw, pastor .. .	Hiawatha Kansas
W. J. Carry, pastor .. .	Staples, Minnesota
Mary Hilton (Lemmon), student College of Missions.....	
.....	Indianapolis, Indiana
Orion Latimer, farmer .....	Shenandoah, Iowa
Robert Lemmon, student, College of Missions.....	
.....	Indianapolis, Indiana
Daisy McClintock (Griggs), homemaker, New Haven, Connecticut	
Harold Niebling, attorney-at-law. ....	Seattle, Washington
Ethel Ranney (Wilmot), homemaker .. .	Bethany, Nebraska
Dan C. Troxel, pastor .. .	Falls City, Nebraska
Florence Leavitt .. .	Bethany, Nebraska

## 1913

Edith Anderson, teacher .....	Toronto, Canada
Gertrude Baldwin, teacher .....	Kearney, Nebraska
Hilma Benson .. .	Harvard, Nebraska
Lucile Brock, graduate student, University of Nebraska.....	
.....	Bethany, Nebraska
Edith Burgess, graduate student, University of Nebraska.....	
.....	Bethany, Nebraska
Nelle Gingles, teacher .....	Humboldt, Nebraska
Earl N. Griggs, graduate student, Yale University .....	
.....	New Haven, Connecticut
Avery Morton, principal of High School.....	Valparaiso, Nebraska



Elsie Morton, teacher in High School . . . Valparaiso, Nebraska  
 B. E. Ogden, pastor . . . Paola, Kansas  
 J. M. Packer, physician . . . Memphis, Nebraska  
 Rollin Squires, teacher in Crete High School . . . Crete, Nebraska  
 Edyth Stansbury, teacher . . . Vale, Oregon

## 1914

Albert Austin, bank employee.....	Prairie Home, Nebraska
Edward Britt, teacher in Exeter High School.....	Exeter, Nebraska
Lauren Christy, pastor.....	La Crosse, Kansas
Mabel Christy, homemaker.....	La Crosse, Kansas
Mabel Cutter (Packer), homemaker.....	Memphis, Nebraska
Bertha Ewers, homemaker.....	Reserve, Kansas
Henry Hanner.....	David City, Nebraska
Harry Hill, pastor.....	Humboldt, Nebraska
Madge Hill, teacher.....	Emerson, Nebraska
T. V. Hubbel, pastor.....	Everest, Kansas
Thomas Keros, business.....	Lincoln, Nebraska
Ernest Molloy, pastor.....	Howard Lake, Minnesota
Minnie Young (Moomaw), homemaker.....	Bethany, Nebraska
Anna Oeschger, teacher.....	Valparaiso, Nebraska
Carl PerLee, pastor.....	Plattsmouth, Nebraska
Ernest Pfeiffer physician.....	Ruskin, Nebraska
Elva Rulon, librarian State Normal.....	Peru, Nebraska
John Shagool, teacher.....	Peabody, Kansas
Nettie Sherman, primary department Bethany school.....	Bethany Nebraska
C. C. Smith.....	Ulysses, Nebraska
Goldie Stevens, teacher.....	Minden, Nebraska
C. H. Thomson, missionary to India.....	Jubbulpore, India
Hettie Turner (Wilmeth), homemaker.....	Lincoln, Nebraska
Ross Williams, pastor.....	Clay Center, Nebraska
Lela Witham, teacher.....	Wymore, Nebraska

## 1915

Celestine Brock teacher.....	Halsey, Nebraska
Robert Conley, graduate student, University of Nebraska	Lincoln, Nebraska
P. B. Cope, pastor.....	Lebanon, Kansas
Hazel Adams Cope, homemaker.....	Lebanon, Kansas
Clara DePue teacher.....	Diller, Nebraska
Cleo Dixon, principal of High School.....	Diller, Nebraska
Lawrence Dry, pastor.....	Peru, Nebraska
Fred Eaton, teacher.....	Burr Oak, Kansas
Earl Hanner, government teacher.....	Philippine Islands

A. L. Hill	Bethany, Nebraska
Hallie Lemon, student	College of Missions
W. C. Martin, student	College of Law, University of Chicago
A. W. Osterhout, teacher, assistant professor in mathematics, Cotner University	Bethany, Nebraska
Josie Y. Osterhout, professor of English, Cotner University	Bethany, Nebraska
Edna Ranney, teacher	Red Cloud, Nebraska
L. J. Strain, pastoral helper and chorus director	Bethany, Nebraska
Elmer E. Strain, teacher	McCook, Nebraska
Carl Worden, graduate student, State University	Lincoln Nebraska
H. E. Weekly, teacher	Crawford, Nebraska
E. E. Briggs, pastor	Nebraska City, Nebraska

## 1916

Charles Streeter	Winters Funck
Orville Johnson	F. A. Wilmot
Dale Ellis	Ruth Dixon
Margaret Knappe	Floss Strain
L. A. Brumbaugh	Hazel Reynolds
Ora Sanborn	Pearl Swartwood
Russell Lemmon	Charles M. Ewers
Clyde Darner	Frank Sanborn
T. A. Blakleslee	Tessa Stevens
Nellie Packer	H. Lee Woodward
Frank Brokaw	

## CHAPTER XXII

### Cotner Alumni Among the Colleges

This is an age in which education is looked upon with favor, a college or university viewed with pride



E. L. Rouse

and the professor considered a man of importance in his community. In college halls, filling places of honor and honoring the college of their younger years, are to be found fourteen graduates of old Cotner engaged in educational work. The records of these fourteen are of interest to all.

**E. L. Rouse, Dean of Peru State Normal**

Nestled among the trees and hills of southeastern Nebraska is to be found one of Nebraska's foremost educational institutions in which E. L. Rouse is an educator. His first educational training was received in Cass and Nuckolls counties. Two winters were spent at old Fairfield College. After teaching in the rural schools for a few years, he spent one year at Western Normal College at Shenandoah, Iowa. Returning to educational work, Mr. Rouse was for three years, principal of the Hebron schools and three years superintendent at Plattsmouth, when he was called to Peru State Normal. Mr. Rouse took his A. B. degree at Cotner in 1910. In 1912, he was made dean of Peru Normal. Mr. Rouse is very popular in the Normal and over the state, and has more calls for institute, lecture and commencement addresses than he can fill. He is one of Nebraska's leading educators.

**Fred S. Hemry, Modern Languages, Tome School**

Professor Hemry is a graduate of the Lincoln High School. He entered Cotner in 1890 and was graduated with the class of 1894. Three years later he received his A. M. degree from the University of Nebraska. Following this, a number of years were spent in teaching in Fairfield College, Henry College, Texas and Eureka College, Illinois. Further post-graduate work was done at John Hopkins and three summers were spent studying in Europe. He is now a successful teacher of Modern Languages at Port Deposit, Maryland in the Tome School. The Tome School is for boys only and is the most magnificently endowed school for its size in the United States, being located on one of the most beautiful spots in the state of Maryland on the palisades of the Suspuhanna river, near its junction with the Chesapeake Bay, About two

hundred boys under nineteen from all parts of the United States are enrolled.

**E. E. Smith, Biology, Cotner University**

Professor Smith was a farmer lad, born and raised on a farm in Johnson County, Nebraska, where he



**E. E. Smith**

received his early education. In 1907, he finished a seven year preparatory and college course at Cotner University, having entered at the age of seventeen. He spent several years in the ministry before continuing his education for one and one-half years at the University of Nebraska. In 1913, Mr. Smith came back to Cotner as instructor in Biology.

**William Oeschger, Chancellor of Cotner University**

In 1864, the father and mother of Chancellor

Oeschger came to this country of many nationalities from the beautiful land of lakes and forests, Switzerland. They located in the city of Philadelphia and while there, a little dark-haired son took up his abode with them. Finally in 1885, they located on a farm near Valparaiso, Nebraska. He received country school training near his home. In 1889, he came to Cotner, remaining five years, graduating in 1894 with the A. B. degree. He then continued his education for four more years at the University of Chicago, receiving two degrees. He was a conscientious student, having the ability to apply himself to either work or play with the force of a strong man. He married Miss Dema Hopkins in the year 1899. Chancellor Oeschger served several churches as their pastor, remaining with the people of Vincennes, Indiana, for ten years, when he left there to take the position of chancellor of Cotner.

**Grace E. Young, Modern Language, Cotner University**

An active dark eyed, dark haired girl spent her early childhood on a farm near Tecumseh, Nebraska. After finishing the country schools, she spent three years at Peru State Normal. Miss Young then taught one year before entering Cotner as a student in 1892. In 1897, she was elected to the chair of Modern Languages at Cotner after receiving her Bachelor's and Master's degrees. She has taken work at Nebraska and Chicago Universities, aside from traveling in Europe in 1911, in better preparing herself for her work as teacher of French and German, which position she has ably filled for nineteen years.

**L. P. Bush, Philosophy, Cotner University**

Professor Bush says concerning his birth: "The date of my birth is in the nature of a tradition, and as I grow older I am inclined to minimize the tradi-

tion, and to hold more firmly to the fact. Of course, I was present at the time, but my consciousness of the event is extremely hazy, in fact, I have no memory of it at all. Tradition says that I was born in a log house in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. This well-



L. P. Bush

known ear mark of greatness has signally failed in my case." His father died when he was only five years of age and he began to struggle to take care of himself. At fifteen, he was apprenticed to learn the carpenter and joiner's trade. He had, when he was nineteen, saved up enough from his apprenticeship to attend the High School in Troy, Pennsylvania. Here Professor Bush says, "Somewhere about this time I was married. This was not so much a matter of wisdom, perhaps, as good fortune." Enough money was borrowed to

attend another term of High School after which he taught one term in the "backwoods" of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Bush came to Nebraska in 1889, locating in Bethany as a carpenter and in 1890, started to take a six year course in Cotner, graduating in 1895. He commenced to preach in 1891; preaching in Tecumseh while in school and remaining there two years after graduation, at which time he returned to preach for Bethany Church and in April, 1898. began teaching in Cotner. Considerable postgraduate work has been done, better fitting him for his work.

**Melvin R. Gilmore, '04**

**Curator of the Museum, North Dakota University**

Born on a farm near Valley, Nebraska, Doctor Melvin R. Gilmore attended the district school in winters. He qualified for a teacher and then alternately taught and attended the Fremont Normal finishing the highest course there. In 1903 he came to Cotner as an instructor for half time and enrolled as a senior student, graduating in 1904 with the A. B. degree. In the fall he enrolled in the University of Nebraska and so continued as a graduate student, teaching full time at Cotner. In June, 1904, he received the degree of A. M. from the University of Nebraska. In the same year, he registered as a candidate for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, still teaching at Cotner. In 1911, he resigned at Cotner to take the position of Curator of the Museum of the Nebraska Historical Society. He received the degree of Ph. D. from the University of Nebraska. In the spring of 1916, he was elected as Curator, in the University of North Dakota. Dr. Gilmore is a scholar of rare ability. He is an accepted authority upon many subjects pertaining to Indian life and to early conditions in the central west. Cotner considers him one of her strongest men.



**Leon A. Moomaw**

**History and Social Science, Cotner University**

Professor Moomaw was born in a sod house on the western Nebraska plains, in Scotts Bluff County. His early education was secured in a sod school house and from his mother at home. He graduated from the Bayard High School in 1905 and entered Cotner University one year later. In 1910, the Bachelor of Expression degree was received from Cotner School of Expression and the A. B. degree in 1911. For two years Mr. Moomaw was national traveling secretary for the International Prohibition Association, lecturing in about two hundred colleges and universities in the central and western states. He was married to Miss Minnie E. Young, a Cotner graduate, in 1914. For three years he has been head of the History and Social Science department at Cotner.

**W. T. Fisher, Religious Education, Phillips Bible Institute**

Professor Fisher is an Indiana product, but early moved to Ohio where he received his public school education. The years from twelve to sixteen were spent working in a steel mill. At this time his family moved to a Kansas farm. When about twenty, he entered Cotner University, as he said, "to begin preparation for the ministry, which had been my ambition for a number of years." He was graduated with the class of 1896. After graduation, thirteen years were spent ministering to three Iowa churches when he became Iowa State Bible School Superintendent. After four years in this capacity, Mr. Fisher was called to the department of Religious Education of Phillips Bible Institute at Canton, Ohio. This position he still holds. The Master's degree was received from Cotner in 1913. Mr. Fisher's record is one of which Cotner can be justly proud.

**Elva E. Rulon, Head Librarian, Peru Normal**

Miss Rulon traces her ancestry back to the Huguenots, who left France because of religious persecution. These people first located in Pennsylvania, but as civilization moved westward, they moved to Ohio and then to Illinois. Here, Miss Rulon was born. Her father died when she was but a child and with her mother and relatives, she moved to Nebraska, locating at Pawnee City. Her early education was received at Pawnee City Academy. Later she attended Fairfield College for two years. After teaching a short time, Miss Rulon entered Peru State Normal completing her course in 1896. One more year was spent there in graduate work. She began her work as librarian in that important institution in 1898. Leaves of absence have been granted to her at different times in order that she might pursue her studies. A course at the Pratt Library School of Brooklyn, N. Y., was completed in 1907. One summer was spent at Chicago University and in 1914 she was graduated from Cotner University.

**Joseph E. Smith, History, Eureka College**

Mr. Smith is a Kansan by birth, but received his early training in the Fremont, Nebraska, High School. Three years were spent in Cotner. He won the Cecil Rhodes scholarship in 1908, and studied in Oxford, England for three years, spending his summers traveling in Europe. Upon his return to America, he was employed for two years in Phillips University at Enid, Oklahoma. Wishing to pursue his studies further, Mr. Smith entered the University of Nebraska and secured his Master's degree. He is now professor of History at Eureka College in Illinois, where he is "making good."

**Alvin E. Evans, Latin, Washington State College**

Mr. Evans was born on a farm near Valley, Nebraska. His early years were spent in the common school, coming to Cotner at the age of fifteen. After completing his college course, he taught for a time at Cotner University. His Master's Degree was received from the Nebraska State University. The next two years were spent in teaching at Eureka College, Illinois. After a year of further study at the University of Chicago, Mr. Evans taught at Racine, Wisconsin, and in the State University of Washington. Still wishing to better equip himself, he secured his Ph. D. degree from Ann Arbor University, Michigan. For the past six years he has been engaged as instructor of Latin at Washington State College. During these years, he spent all his spare time in the study of law, in which he wished to specialize. In the fall of 1915, he entered the Harvard Law School, having secured a leave from his teaching work, and will receive his degree in 1916. Mr. Evans is an exceptional scholar, a successful teacher and a splendid man.

**John M. Howie, Mathematics, Peru Normal**

An Iowa farm was the birth place of Mr. Howie. At an early age he moved, with his parents, to Bloomfield, where he received his common and high school education. When he was but a lad he showed marked ability in penmanship and, upon the completion of his high school course, became instructor in that subject at the Southern Iowa Normal. While teaching, he also took enough school work to graduate in 1889 from the Normal. Not being old enough to get a certificate in Iowa, he came to Nebraska and taught in a country school in Saunders county, from 1889 to 1891. He was a student and instructor of penmanship and drawing at Cotner University for the two succeeding years

and principal of the Commercial department at that place, from 1893-'94. Mr. Howie was a student and assistant in mathematics at the University of Nebraska the following year. The same work was pursued at the University of Wisconsin from 1895-'97, and one year was spent as instructor of mathematics in the Eau Claire Wisconsin High School. The position, as head of the department of mathematics at the Nebraska State Normal at Peru, has been well filled by Mr. Howie since 1898.

**Lulu Harding Smith, Domestic Art,  
Nebraska School of Agriculture**

Miss Harding was born at Humboldt, Nebraska, in 1883. All of her early education was received at Humboldt, being a graduate from the high school of that place under Professor R. L. Hoff. After four years work at Cotner, she received the A. B. degree with the class of '06. She was the first graduate from Cotner to receive a teacher's life certificate. Six years were spent as a teacher in the public schools, before beginning her work in 1914, first, as a student and later as a teacher in the Domestic Art department of the Nebraska School of Agriculture.

**Albert W. Osterhout, Assistant in Mathematics,  
Cotner University**

Of a jolly nature is Albert W. Osterhout. Perhaps a reason for this disposition is found in the fact that as a youth he enjoyed the bitter with the sweet. He was born in Illinois, but four times with his parents he made the trip between Illinois and Nebraska in a covered wagon, the last one being made when he was past thirteen. The district schools of Nebraska and Illinois, the high school at Sycamore, Illinois, the state normal at Peru, Nebraska, the State University and Cotner University have each had a part in his education.

Farming, teaching and going to school was the program for a number of years and now it is preaching, teaching and going to school. In 1894, Mr. Osterhout was married to Josie E. York, a former schoolmate, pupil and classmate. He began his work in Cotner in



**A. W. Osterhout**

1902, one year being Dean of the Normal School, seven years principal of the Business School and the last few years assistant in mathematics. Mr. Osterhout received his A. B. degree from Cotner University in June, 1915.

**Josie York Osterhout, Head of English Department,  
Cotner University**

A little, prim, dark haired, dark eyed girl started to one of the country schools in Johnson County, Nebraska,

on her fifth birthday anniversary and continued a pupil in that school until 1886 when she entered the preparatory course of the State Normal at Peru, Nebraska. Mrs. Osterhout was graduated from this school in June, 1893, having been out but one year, in which she taught at Nemaha City. The school year of 1893-4 she taught in the Weeping Water High School. Since her marriage she has spent two years in the country schools of Nemaha county, one year in the grades of the Humboldt schools and fifteen years in Cotner University. By doing extra work in Cotner University and attending summer school at the State University, Mrs. Osterhout prepared herself for the A. B. degree which was granted her in June, 1915. For two years she has been the efficient head of the department of English in Cotner University.



J. H. Bicknell, Secretary of the College

## CHAPTER XXIII

### Cotner Alumni Among the Churches

The church is the institution through which the sweetest and best human thoughts are unfolded and given to the world. It is through the teachings of the church that man approaches nearest the Divine and by His power he forsakes sin, corruption and immorality. It is the greatest moral and spiritual agent known to man. One of the principal reasons for the establishment of Cotner University was to provide a place for the training of young men for the ministry. In that hope her founders have not been disappointed. Over forty per cent of the Christian preachers of the state of Nebraska are either Cotner alumni or former students. Fifty, of the two hundred and two Cotner graduates are ministers. Cotner is proud of all and ashamed of none of her preachers. In this chapter it is our purpose to take the reader upon a journey among the Christian churches where Cotner's alumni are pastors. Just a few lines of a biographical sketch of these men and a few words about their churches will be of concern to all because Cotner is a big family, each interested in the other.

We will begin the journey in the far east at Baltimore, Maryland, where we find H. C. Armstrong, '08. Mr. Armstrong's place of birth was in a little log cabin in the woods of Illinois in 1877, but he grew to manhood upon the plains of western Kansas. Four years were spent in Cotner, securing the A. B. degree. The A. M. and B. D. degrees were received from Yale University. He was married to Miss Mary R. Enyart, a Cotner graduate, September 16, 1908. In 1912, Mr.

Armstrong was called to the pastorate of the Harlem Avenue Christian Church of Baltimore, Maryland.

The Baltimore church is among the old churches, it having been organized as a Baptist church about 1805, but a little later joined the movement led by Alexander Campbell. Mr. Campbell held an evangelistic meeting for this church in 1835. The first convert was Theodatus Garlick, the world's famous sculptor and surgeon. The graded Sunday school system was first worked out and established in this church. The church has a well equipped, substantial building, and a membership of about six hundred. Mr. Armstrong holds many positions of special prominence connected with the Christian churches of Maryland.



Ford Ellis

Ford A. Ellis, '90, is located at Traverse City, Michigan, a city of fifteen thousand population. Mr. Ellis spent his boyhood days upon a farm near Broken Bow, Nebraska. His education was received in the Merna High School and at Cotner University. In college, he was a football player and an orator, winning at both. Mr. Ellis is a graduate from Cotner School of Expression as well as from the College of Arts. His life com-

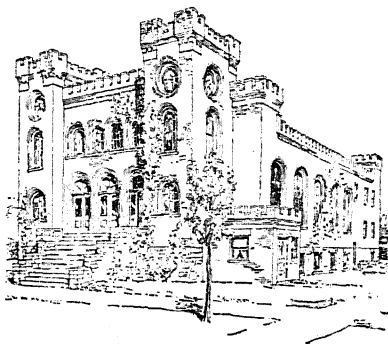


panion, Miss Elsie Bankson, is a graduate from Cotner School of Music.

The Traverse City church has a membership of five hundred, a good building, and a good opportunity for work. This church has sent twelve boys into the ministry. During the two years of Mr. Ellis' ministry, three hundred and twenty-five have been added to the church, seventy having been recently added by a home force meeting. Mr. Ellis is president of a number of important social and religious organizations of his city.

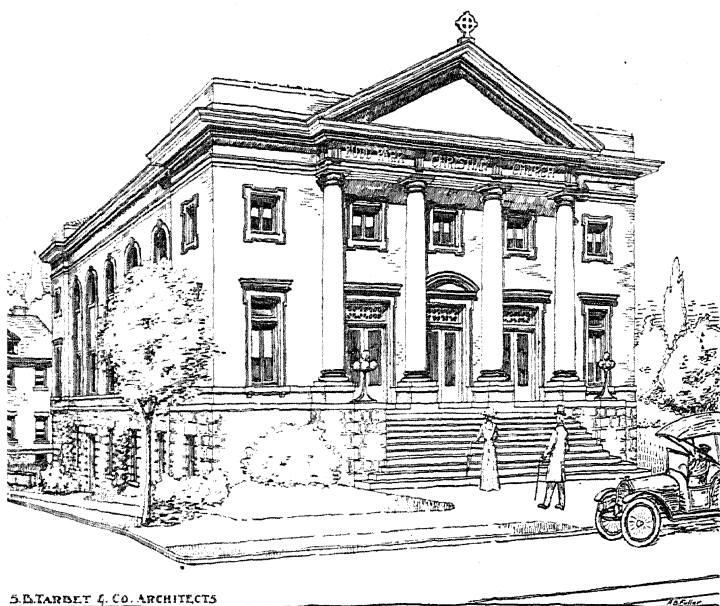


A. J. Hollingsworth



Temple Church

Just west of the Missouri river A. J. Hollingsworth, '07, is found. His place of birth was on a farm near Ashland, Nebraska, where he took a course in agriculture before taking the one in brain culture at Cotner. Mr. Hollingsworth held a number of important pastorates before being called to the Temple Christian Church in Kansas City, Kansas, where he is doing splendid work. The church has great possibilities before it, on account of its favorable location. The membership is about three hundred.



Budd Park Christian Church

Kansas City, Missouri, is the home of Hugh Lomax, '05, who was born in a Kansas log house and grew to manhood in that state and in Nebraska. He entered Cotner in 1896, but ill health prevented him from finishing his college work as soon as he otherwise would have done. After a few unsuccessful attempts at preaching he decided to change his plan and give up the ministry. Being more successful later, he decided to make it his life work. He has now been in the ministry for ten years, serving the churches at

Auburn, Nebraska, and at Highland and Abilene, Kansas, before going to his present location.

The Budd Park church has four hundred and twenty-five members. The building is a new, beautiful, well arranged structure, located in a rapidly growing part of the city. Every branch of the church is growing and everybody likes Hugh Lomax.



Ray E. Hunt

In the northern metropolis of Minnesota, Ray E. Hunt, '09, is located with the Grand Avenue Christian Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Mr. Hunt arrived in this world in March, 1884, near Galesburg, Kansas. While in college he was very active in all literary and

social functions. After graduating he began work with the First Christian Church of Duluth, Minnesota, where he labored for five years with marked success. The Grand Avenue Church, where Mr. Hunt has labored for the past year and a half, has a membership of about two hundred and fifty.

For the past four years Mr. Hunt has been president of the Minnesota Christian Missionary Society and for the last two years, office secretary. During the four years, the Minnesota Christian churches have increased in membership from two thousand seven hundred to five thousand. Much credit is due Mr. Hunt for this remarkable growth.

After leaving Minneapolis, we journey to Omaha where two more Cotner alumni are found. Charles E. Cobbey, 09, is pastor of the First Church, located at 26th and Harney streets. His career was begun in 1885 at Beatrice, Nebraska, where he spent his boyhood and received his early education. In 1903, relatives called him to Columbus, Indiana, assuring him they had work for him to do. Upon his arrival, he found himself employed as pastor of the East Columbus church. He went to work, although he had never thought of preaching, and held the work for three years. This was the beginning of his life work; since then many successful pastorates have been held. His higher education was received at Cotner, where he was especially active in all college life. He says my greatest ambition is, "to preach the gospel until I am seventy-seven."

The year 1868 saw the first Christian church organization in Omaha perfected, although C. R. Hand held a meeting there in 1865. The first building was erected through the efforts of D. R. Dungan. This congregation has had six church homes, the last is valued at \$65,000 and is a modern, up-to-date structure. The membership of the church is over five hun-



**John Alber**

dred. Over three hundred are enrolled in the Bible school. This church is growing in every department. C. E. Cobbey is a live wire.

John G. Alber, '11, is leader of the South Side Christian Church of Omaha. He is a Cotner alumnus of which all are proud. During his college days he served in a very successful manner as student pastor at Peru, Nebraska. His next pastorate was at Auburn, Nebraska, where through his rare ability as a carpenter he was able to direct the work of constructing a splendid building and did a great deal of the actual work himself. He also made the pulpit, desks and many useful articles for the church.

The South Side Christian Church of Omaha, for which Mr. Alber is now laboring, was organized in 1890. For some time this organization had no real church home. Finally a small two-story building was constructed on the alley of a lot which had been purchased. Services were held upon the first floor, while the pastor lived upstairs. In a few years a building belonging to the Methodist (colored) people was secured and placed upon the front of the lot. This was used until 1909, when the present splendid building was dedicated. The church has now a membership of over two hundred and twenty-five.

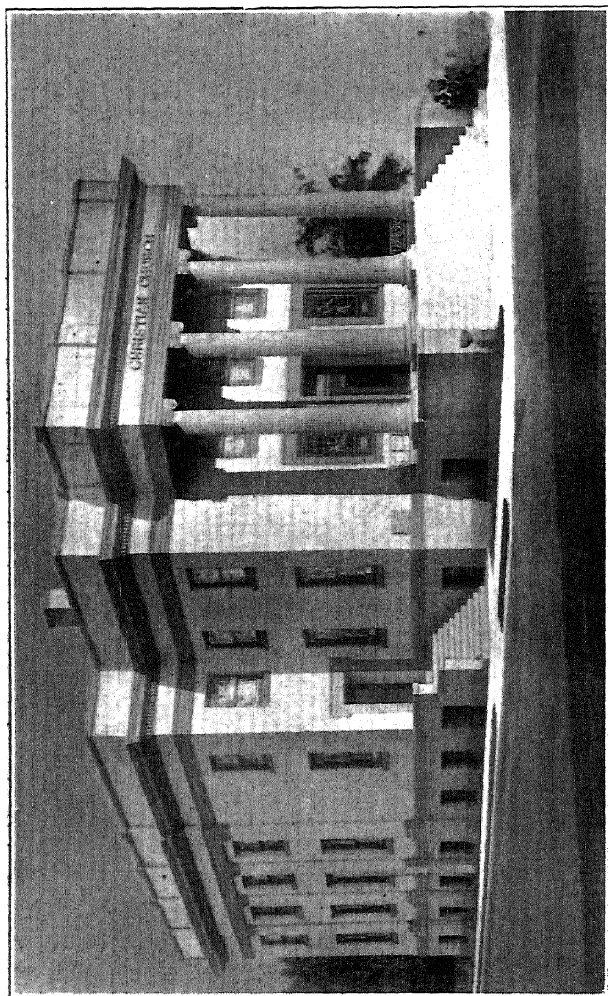
In the capitol city of the state, J. W. Hilton, '98, is found with the East Lincoln Christian Church. It was organized in 1890, as a mission of the First Christian church under the direction of C. W. Henry and later of R. W. Abberly. C. B. Newnan was pastor of the First Church at the time. Under this direction the mission had finished and dedicated the first chapel, the main part of the present old building. J. W. Hilton is now the efficient pastor of this church.

The pastors in order of service, have been as follows others have served temporarily:

R. W. Abberley, June 19, 1890 to June, 1895.  
J. W. Hilton, July, 1895, to July, 1898.  
G. J. Chapman, July, 1898, to February, 1899.  
F. L. Pettit, April, 1899, to April, 1900.  
J. W. Hilton, May, 1900, to September, 1901.  
E. E. Boyd, November, 1901, to December, 1905.  
Z. O. Doward, April, 1906, to October, 1908.  
W. H. Zenor, April, 1909, to July, 1910.  
J. W. Hilton, August, 1910, to——.

The present pastor will complete ten years of service with the congregation in May of the present year, having been called for the third time to the work in 1910. The congregation now has a membership of 344 resident members with a few non-residents, who maintain an active relationship. On November 2, 1913, the new basement of a \$30,000 modern church building was completed at a cost of \$8,538.67. This amount is about paid and plans will soon be in operation, it is hoped, for the completion of the useful workshop.

Whenever we arrive, we will find Dan C. Troxel, '12, working with the Falls City, Nebraska, Christian church. The subject of this sketch was born in the summertime of the '80's, and in the summertime of the year, July 14. He is a native Nebraskan, was born on a farm three miles southeast of Clay Center. His father, reared in a Disciple home, homesteaded in Clay county with a colony of Iowans in 1872. His mother, a Baptist, born in North Carolina, homesteaded on an adjoining section. Later, standing before Worthy T. Nemcomb at Fairfield, Nebraska, these homesteads and homesteaders were united. Dan just grew as other boys do. At the age of eight, a boy's best companion, his mother, was laid to rest. He was graduated from a ten grade high school at the age of fourteen, then served his apprenticeship in a print-



Falls City Christian Church



shop, becoming foreman of a large press room. He entered Cotner University in 1906, finishing in 1912. A week after graduation he was married to Mattie L. Britt.

The church at Falls City had its beginning in an organization as early as 1870. The building, which was completed in that year, is now used for school purposes. This organization was to suffer a peculiar calamity. The pastor, board and building were captured by the Baptist people. The remnant of the congregation later rallied and met in the old Odd Fellows hall at 15th and Stone streets, now occupied by Wahl's store. This remnant so flourished that within a few years they had regained a number who had gone with the Baptists and also Bro. Beardsley, the Baptist minister at that time. Thus regaining all they had lost except the building. W. E. Neal from Kentucky assisted in re-organizing this group in 1877. R. C. Barrow held a meeting in which about forty united with the church. A new building was dedicated in 1878 by J. B. Briney, still prominent in our brotherhood. By 1910 the old church was too small and a portentous building enterprise was launched. As a result the present \$30,000 church plant was dedicated in 1911. During the building campaign, F. E. Day bore the burden and vigorously pushed the plans, as pastor of the church. Since 1914, Dan C. Troxel has been laboring with the church and is deeply entrenched in the hearts of his people.

Another live church in Nebraska is under the direction of Arthur F. Ritchey, '11, as commander in chief. He was born in 1882, in Wellington, Kansas, where his father was engaged as a Presbyterian minister. Mr. Ritchey is a graduate of Boyles Business College, Omaha and Cotner University. During the ten years in which he has been engaged in the ministry, four



A. F. Ritchey

were spent with the church at Bennett, Nebraska, one as a singing evangelist and five at York, where he has been called for another five years. A wife and three little girls complete his happy home circle.

The Christian church of York was organized as a result of the work of R. C. Barrow in 1886. The membership is at present five hundred and thirty-one. Over five hundred have been added to the church during the ministry of Mr. Ritchey. The Bible school enrollment is over three hundred. Every phase of the church work is progressing.

C. E. Lemmon, '13, is pastor of the First Christian Church at Hastings, Nebraska. He is a Nebraskan by birth and residence. Before coming to Cotner, he was graduated from the Waco High School and the York Business College. Prior to taking his college training, several years were spent in business. While a student he ministered for the church at Douglas, Nebraska, for four years. He served the Ashland church one year before being called to Hastings.

As in many other cases the Hastings church was organized by R. C. Barrow in 1885. For a long time they worshipped from place to place until a small frame building was erected. After a meeting, held by Charles Reign Scoville in 1910, a new building was planned. As a result, the \$30,000 structure was dedicated in 1911 by Chancellor William Oeschger. The new building is modern in every respect, having ample room for a Bible school, which averages about three hundred. The church membership registers four hundred and seventy-five resident members and one hundred fifty non-resident. This is a growing church.

Manson E. Miller, '05, is located at Kearney, Nebraska, where one of the State Normal Schools is situated. This church was organized in 1882. The present church building is of brick and stone, built in 1912, and seats about seven hundred. The building stands opposite the big Midway hotel on Central Avenue, and is also on the street known as the "Lincoln

Way" which is the trans-continental highway. Tourists are continually taking pictures of the building. The present resident membership is three hundred; forty have been added since the present pastorate began eight months ago.

Mr. Miller first opened his eyes to the light of day in Iowa in 1874 and he says: "According to the evidence of my mother, I entered the state of Nebraska under protest, being at the time but five months old, and lying on my back with my heels in the air." His education was received at the Greenwood, Nebraska, High School; at Cotner Business College and later in the regular College of Arts. Pastorates were held at Exeter for two years and Clay Center, Nebraska, for eight years before locating at Kearney.

Fairfield has the distinction of being one of the pioneer points for organized Christian church work in Nebraska. The Fairfield Christian Church was organized in the school house by W. T. Newcomb, June 16, 1878. The number of charter members was eight. W. T. Newcomb and James H. Artrup were the elders; Joseph Webb and S. J. Anthony were the deacons. The legal organization known as "The Fairfield Christian Church" was perfected November 1, 1881. The congregation met in a school house, which was purchased January 4, 1885, when D. R. Lucas dedicated it as the new church building. This was a neater and more suitable structure for the growing congregation, costing about \$3,000. By the year 1885 the membership had grown to two hundred and five. During the eighties the Christian College was located at Fairfield and continued to exist until the nineties. The college was a great strength to the church and its influence still remains. In 1907, the church building was improved and enlarged but unfortunately it was completely destroyed by a cyclone a year later. The

membership showed great determination by going forward under the leadership of H. C. Williams. Although the old building was not free of debt, a new modern plant was dedicated by L. L. Carpenter in 1909. The present membership is three hundred and twenty-nine.

The minister to this church for the past three years has been Stephen J. Epler, '05. Nebraska City, Nebraska, was his birthplace, but his early childhood was spent on a farm near Tecumseh, Nebraska. He is a graduate of the Tecumseh High School and of Cotner University. Mr. Epler ministered to the church at Brooklyn, Iowa, for four years and the same length of time to the West Liberty, Iowa, church. Miss Blanche Parmenter of Bethany became his wife in 1906. He attributes much of his success in the ministry to her.

Leaving Nebraska, we must visit two Kansas churches. Floyd A. Bash is making the work go at Highland. He began his career on a Nebraska farm, first seeing the light in 1885. He is a graduate of the Adams High School and of Cotner University. While in school he was a participant in all college activities. Mr. Bash is now filling his third regular pastorate, the first being for one and a half years at Dorchester, Nebraska; second, four years were spent with the Christian church in Sheridan, Wyoming, where over three hundred new members were added. In 1914, he came to Highland, Kansas. In the year and a half, over one hundred have been added and a \$7,000 addition built to the church. The total membership is a little less than four hundred. This church supports two living link missionaries. Mrs. Bash, formerly Miss Carrie Hubbard, a graduate of Cotner Music School, is an able assistant to Mr. Bash, who is "making good."



Floyd Bash

At Independence, Kansas, Freeman L. Pettit, '01, is doing a good work. Mr. Pettit is a Buckeye by birth, but spent much of his early life as a Kansas farmer boy and school teacher. Six years were spent in Cotner and one in post-graduate work in Yale, preparatory to his life work in the ministry. He was married on June 12, 1901, to Miss Edna Bush, a Cotner girl. The Independence Christian church, for which Mr. Pettit labors, has seven hundred and sixty members. For the past three years the Bible school attendance has averaged nearly four hundred. The building is of brick, dedicated in 1909, and is a well arranged workshop, having a pipe organ and other modern equipment. The church property is valued

at \$35,000. This church is sure to grow. Independence is a county seat town with a population of thirteen thousand.

When we journey in the south land, we find Charles A. Finch, '95, as pastor of the First Christian Church at Fayetteville, Arkansas. "Back east," in Pennsylvania in 1869, are given as the place and date of birth. After moving to Nebraska, he attended the Academy in connection with Fairfield College for two years. The A. B. degree was received from Cotner University and also from Chicago University. Mr. Finch served as pastor for Christian churches at Newton and Cheney, Kansas, for three years each, when he began work with the First Christian Church of Topeka, where he remained for thirteen years. The Fayetteville church, where Mr. Finch has been for the past year, has a membership of four hundred. This city is the home of the State University and State Agriculture School of Arkansas, with a population of eight thousand, being the metropolis of the southeastern part of the state. Mr. Finch is making progress in his new field.

Only one of Cotner's alumni, ministers for a Colorado church. R. A. Schell is with the First Christian Church of Boulder. He was born in Illinois, but reared at Beatrice, Nebraska. His early education was received in the Beatrice public schools and in the Beatrice Business College. Upon graduation from Cotner University, he was engaged in teaching for three years before entering the ministry. Mr. Schell has served four churches in Nebraska: Ashland one year, Hebron eight years, and Hastings seven years, when he accepted the work at Boulder and has been there for three years.

The Boulder church has six hundred and fifty members and is the third largest congregation in the city.

The average attendance at the Bible school is about three hundred. The church membership has been increased two hundred and twenty-five during the last three years. Plans are laid for the enlargement of the church building. The Boulder Christian Church is one of the strongest in Colorado and is considered very important on account of Boulder being the home of the State University.

At last we reach the Pacific coast on our journey among the big Christian churches, where Cotner alumni are employed. Here we find R. W. Abberley, '93, with the Magnolia Avenue Christian Church of Los Angeles, California. Liverpool, England, is the birthplace and boyhood home of Mr. Abberley. In 1888, he became a resident of the United States. Some of the pastorates held since graduation from Cotner were in Columbus and Cincinnati, Ohio and Minneapolis, Minnesota. Two years and five months were spent as general evangelist for the American Christian Missionary Society. During this time one thousand seven hundred and forty-one were added to the church.

The Magnolia Avenue church is one of the strongest on the Pacific coast. The church has seven hundred and the Bible school four hundred enrollment. The church building is valued at \$35,000. W. B. Alexander is the living link missionary from the church at Damoh, India. The C. W. B. M. help support the missionary work in the mountains in Kentucky. Fifteen confessions were taken by Mr. Abberley on Easter day, seventy-five have been added in the last six months.

George C. Ritchey, '96, was born in the "show me" state in 1870, but is a Nebraskan by education, having received his training at Cotner. His first sermon was preached at Troy, Kansas, December 31, 1891.



Since leaving Cotner, Mr. Ritchey has devoted his time to pastoral and evangelistic work. Some of the pastorates held were Humboldt and Harvard, Nebraska, and Salem, Rosebury and Newberg, Oregon. Many important evangelistic meetings have been held and the following churches organized by Mr. Ritchey, Peru and Bancroft, Nebraska; Wellman, Iowa; Newburg and Wallowa, Oregon, and Meridan, Rupert and Emmet, Idaho. Mr. Ritchey was largely responsible for raising the money for the Oregon steamer to be used upon the Congo in Africa. He is now serving the Monmouth, Oregon, church, where the State Normal is located. In June, he begins a pastorate with the Boyle Heights Christian Church of Los Angeles.

In the far northeast corner of the United States is found a Cotner alumnus, who linked himself as closely as possible to Cotner by marrying, on New Years day, 1908, the chancellor's daughter, Miss Clara Aylsworth. Mr. Cleveland Kleihauer was born, reared and received his early education in Nemaha county, Nebraska. After six years work at Cotner the A. B. degree was received and work begun with the David City, Nebraska, Christian church, where he remained for four years. A short time was spent with the Redpath Lyceum Bureau. The A. M. degree, from the State University was received just before locating with the University Christian church at Seattle, Washington, in October, 1912. This steadily growing church has a membership of two hundred seventy-five with a Bible school of over three hundred. The new church building, in process of erection, is designed especially for Bible school work, having a capacity for a school of twelve hundred. It is thought that perhaps such a school would be needed in connection with the University of Washington, which is only two

blocks away. Mrs. Kleihauer is a graduate of Cotner in '06, and proves herself a most efficient helper in the work.



Cleveland Kleihauer

This group of seventeen churches which we have mentioned includes those under the direction of Cotner alumni, which are either large in membership or located in large cities. They are among the greatest churches of the Christian brotherhood and in fact in the religious world. Cotner's ministers are proving their ability to meet the religious problems as efficiently as the graduates of any Christian church college. These men are not only great in their capacity to govern and direct church life, but are daily called upon to create

and mold the public mind of their community. They are not considered narrow and sectarian but rather broad minded, public spirited men. Great ministers cannot alone be measured by the membership of the church, nor by the city in which they are located; therefore, there is another group deserving of mention.

In Nebraska, the following four young men are the pastors of live, growing churches. Carl E. PerLee is a native of Michigan and a graduate of Grand Rapids, Michigan, High School. His higher education was received largely through his own efforts as to financial support. His early purpose in life was to obtain an education at the Michigan Agricultural College, but contact with Evangelist H. E. Wilhite in a meeting at the Christian church at Grand Rapids resulted in changing his entire course in life. Mr. PerLee entered Cotner University in the fall of 1911 and pursued a ministerial course. He was graduated with the class of 1914. Mr. PerLee had a pastorate at Marcus, Iowa, previous to taking the work at Plattsmouth, Nebraska, where he is now located. The church at this place is one of the historic organizations of the state. It was organized by Elder T. J. Todd in May, 1860, with fourteen charter members, one of whom remains at this time, Isaac Wiles. For many years the church worshipped in the homes of the members or in rented halls. The present church property was purchased in 1874, from the Congregational church, for \$700.00. Additions have been made to the building, but it is yet inadequate for the needs of the rapidly growing Bible school. The membership of the Plattsmouth church is two hundred and eighty.

Peru, the home of one of the State Normal Schools, is the field where Lawrence Dry, '15, is laboring. Mr. Dry was born and received his high school education

at Chester, Nebraska. He proudly calls Cotner his Alma Mater. The Christian church at Peru, Nebraska, has been organized for about twenty years and has a membership of a little less than two hundred. Much work is done among the normal students, who are there for eleven months each year.

Harry J. Hill, '14, a Minnesotan by birth and early education, came to C. U. in 1900. He attributes the influence which confirmed his choice of life work, the ministry, to W. P. Aylsworth. The Christian church at Humboldt was assisted in its organization by R. C. Barrow. The membership of the church at present is two hundred and they worship in a modern building erected in 1911. The Humboldt organization is one of the active churches of the state.

Ross Williams, '14, hails from the state of Iowa. Before deciding to secure a higher education, he had had considerable experience in other lines. Three years spent in the U. S. navy, the same length of time as clerk for a Council Bluffs firm, and several years as employee in the Union Pacific R. R. shops at Omaha, Nebraska. Mr. Williams tells of his first preaching in these words: "Did one year's preaching prior to entering Cotner in which some real pioneer work was done as I was forced to do preaching in the woods near Bentley, Iowa, after a sectarian church and a school house had been closed against me. During this experience a dam was constructed across a little stream so baptizing could be done. On Sunday afternoons preaching would be done under the trees in sight of the baptistry." The Clay Center church, with which Mr. Williams is now working, has a membership of three hundred. It is one of Nebraska's strong churches, located in a clean town.

Across the border line in Kansas are some more of Cotner's active young preachers. Peter Cope, '15, is

located with the church at Lebanon, Kansas. There is a splendid church building, a membership of two hundred and fifteen with prospects for the future brighter than ever before. Mr. Cope was born in Kansas, but moved with his parents to Hastings, Nebraska, when but a year old. There he earned his own way previous to entering Cotner in 1907, and on through his college course. Student preaching was done at different points in Kansas and Nebraska. Mr. Cope's decision to enter the ministry was made when he was nineteen years of age and his determination has never wavered.

T. V. Hubbel, '14, is making things go at Everest, Kansas. He was born in Hastings and spent his boyhood days at Fairfield, Nebraska, receiving there all of his early education. Two years of college work were taken at Drake University and two at Cotner. The Everest church is a rapidly growing one, forty members having been added last year. The church was organized in 1908 and the new modern building was erected the following year. The Bible school is "front rank," each class being well organized, and each having a separate room. The future for the Everest church is propitious for greater work and growth.

So it is, wherever we go the Cotner preachers are "making good." Those who have not been named in this chapter, who are serving smaller churches in the town or village, will receive their reward for God is there just the same as in the city church.

## CHAPTER XXIV

### Cotner Alumni in Missionary Work

Leading Christian thinkers to-day believe in the evangelism of the world, not a part, but the whole of it. This is the age of a million opportunities in which to prove that we are our brother's keeper. This is indeed an age of progression; in our business the fifteen story building has taken the place of the two story one, in transportation the small train of 1832 is a toy compared with the great engine drawing its long line of freight or passenger cars. Likewise, in this day, to confine missionary work to a particular section is a dwarfed conception of a bigger job than business or transportation. Ten of Cotner's alumni are engaged in missionary work, four of these are in far away foreign lands.

Mr. C. C. Drummond, '06, is Cotner's greatest missionary, having been at Harda, India, an important grain and cotton market, with a population of sixteen thousand since November, 1897. Mr. Drummond was born at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, in 1867, and is now in the noonday of usefulness. He was a graduate of the Arapahoe, Nebraska, High School, then of Cotner University Medical College in 1896. When home on a furlough he took the A. B. degree from Cotner with the class of 1906. Dr. Drummond and Miss Elizabeth Iiams were married August 24, 1897. In a short time they sailed for India, arriving November 15, 1897. Strange and bewildering indeed were the scenes to the new bride and bridegroom; heathen temples and odd customs so opposite from American ways. Dr. Drummond uses his medical ability as a powerful means for doing good. He is the only Euro-

pean physician within a radius of sixty miles. People of at least twelve different languages come great distances to receive treatment. Over thirteen thousand different persons are treated yearly; as many of these come more than once the number of cases reaches twenty-five thousand. He preaches at the mission chapel twice per month. Not only by preaching, but in every possible way does he tell every patient he treats of the way of salvation. He officiates at weddings, baptisms, births, deaths and funerals. He is also secretary-treasurer of the Harda station which involves the business of the station, making reports and answering correspondence. The Missionary Intelligencer says: "This excellent missionary is one of the most useful men the Foreign Society has ever been fortunate enough to appoint and support. Quiet, industrious, persistent, good-humored, a lover of men, tactful, he is honored and loved by all his associates and all who come to know him." Mrs. Drummond has really been a true helper.

Two other Cotner alumni in India are Miss Lucile Ford, '06, and Clinton H. Thomson, '14. Miss Lucile Ford spent most of her childhood days in Bethany. Her education was received in Bethany public school and Cotner Academy and University. Her plan for going to the foreign field upon completion of college was thwarted by ill health. Her second choice for life work was with children and she entered the National Benevolent Association Home at St. Louis, where she was for six years. Having regained her health she took one year's training in the Mission College, Indianapolis, Indiana, preparatory to sailing for India in September, 1915. As yet she has not begun her active work but spends from eight to ten hours per day studying the Hindu language at Jubbulpore. This will soon be completed and she will go to her

work at the girls orphanage at Mahoba, India, where she has been appointed to work. Miss Ford has gone to the foreign field as the living link missionary of the Christian church of Council Bluffs, Iowa.

C. H. Thompson, '14, and his wife, Bertha Mangon Thomson, a graduate of the Cotner Medical College in '13, have been recently added to the missionary force in India. Mr. Thomson was born and reared on a farm near Red Oak, Iowa. Seven years were spent in Cotner. Student preaching was done most of the time. In 1914, he was married to Bertha Mangon and together they entered the College of Missions at Indianapolis, Indiana. These young people are both well fitted for their work. They arrived at Jubulpore, India, in November, 1915, and have since been studying the Hindu language. They will soon begin their active work.

Wenona Wilkinson, '11, is Cotner's missionary to China. She was born in Sheridan county, Nebraska, in 1887. Because of the number of Indians on all sides, she was given the Indian name, "Wenona," meaning "first born daughter." In 1903, Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson went to Porto Rico as missionaries. This gave Wenona an opportunity to learn the Spanish language. Upon their return she completed her work at Cotner and for two years was engaged as a teacher at Elmwood, Nebraska, when the call came to her to go as a teacher to China. At first she thought she could not respond to the call because she had intended to be a missionary to some Spanish speaking country. But at last she decided to go to the College of Missions, Indianapolis, for one and a half years and then to go to far away China. She sailed in September, 1915, and has since arriving, been diligently studying the language at Nankin. Miss Wilkinson will soon begin her work as head of a new school for girls at



Lochoufu, China, where she will be a power for good.

These five, C. C. Drummond, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Thomson, Lucile Ford and Wenona Wilkinson, are Cotner's representatives going "into all the world" to preach the gospel. No one deserves more praise, because of loyalty to a great cause, than those who "lay down their cross" and follow Christ. Surely a crown is awaiting them.

Bert Wilson, '09, as western secretary of the Foreign Missionary Society, is doing a great work in enlarging the vision of the church for missions. He was born in West Virginia, but at two years of age came with his parents to Minden, Nebraska. A vivid picture of his youth is given in his characteristic style: "First school attended was in a sod house. Plowed corn with oxen. First public speech ever made was in the sand hills of the northern part of Kearney county. The pulpit was the saddle on a cream colored pony—the auditorium was a great stretch of sand hills and plains—the audience was cattle, coyotes and prairie dogs. They all sat up and took notice. The subject, 'Prohibition speech for one of the old Demarest contests'." His education was received at Cotner with some post-graduate work at the University of Nebraska. For two years he was head of the department of English at Cotner. The same length of time was spent as secretary of the Men and Religion Forward Movement for Lincoln and southeastern Nebraska.

He was called from this work to become western secretary of the Foreign Christian Missionary Society with headquarters at Kansas City, Missouri. Mr. Wilson's field includes Minnesota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Colorado, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas. His work consists in trying to enlarge the interest in foreign missions

among all of our people, visiting Sunday schools, Endeavor societies, county, district and state conventions, delivering missionary addresses, holding conferences with the church boards, etc. Also helping to select qualified missionaries for the field, visiting well-to-do individuals and getting them to give large sums to the work.

No better words, expressing appreciation of Mr. Wilson's work can be found than in the Missionary



Bert Wilson

Intelligencer: "What a splendid field marshal is Bert Wilson! All the elements of success, faith, intelligence, missionary passion, good judgment, industry and tact are united in him so that he has sprung to a place of real leadership of the missionary hosts in a

comparatively short time. His relation to the churches of the middle west is of the very highest importance. Mr. Wilson is only in the morning of a large and a more useful day in the missionary propaganda among our people. He is an inspiration and a strength to the Foreign Society and his services are invaluable."

Another field which is of equal importance with that of the F. C. M. S. is the American Christian Missionary Society. In this great work of evangelizing



Grant K. Lewis

America, Cotner has a representative in Grant K. Lewis,' 98. A million foreigners are yearly coming in the United States which is the "melting pot" of the world. These people are to be Christianized just as well as those of foreign lands and when they segregate themselves into certain parts of our great cities, a problem is presented which is as intricate as any in a foreign field. The negro of the south should be given both education and religion. All over the United States are places where churches should be organized or where struggling churches are needing assistance. The evangelist is needed everywhere. These are only a few of the tasks left for the American

Christian Missionary Society to do. Grant K. Lewis as secretary of this society certainly has a noble work to do and he is doing it in a commendable way. The following report is suggestive of what has been accomplished. Each year brings greater victories for this organization which has labored for so long and so faithfully.

#### 1913 RESULTS THROUGH THE HOME SOCIETY

Missionaries and Evangelists .....	381
Baptisms .....	7,685
Other Accessions.....	7,290
Unclassified .....	602
<hr/>	
Total .....	15,577
Churches organized.....	65
Number of Places Assisted.....	711

Elmer and Elsie Child of the class '09, are two of Cotner's alumni engaged in missionary work in the home land. Mr. Child is a native of Nebraska, being born at Arapahoe in 1883. When thirteen years of age, his parents moved to Fitzgerald, Georgia, where Elmer finished his high school work in 1901. The little Christian Endeavor society of the Christian church was the place where he began his first religious work, which has since been actively continued. Mr. Child entered Cotner in the fall of 1903, completing his college course in '09. Among the student activities, the Volunteer Band was the one to which he gave most attention. Mr. Child was married to Miss Elsie Britt in June, 1909, and they went at once to their homestead in South Dakota, remaining there until the first of the year 1911, when they went to Indianapolis to attend the College of Missions. They were at this time under appointment by the Christian Woman's Board of Missions to Buenos Aires, Argentina, South America, but on account of the ill

health of Mrs. Child, were detained. An additional year's training was taken at the College of Missions in 1913, but the dangerous sailing condition, due to the European war, was the cause of their again being thwarted in their purpose.

Elsie Britt Child, so well known by all Cotner people from the years 1904-1909, was born and reared in Seward County, Nebraska. Special credit is due Mrs. Child for the capable way in which she acquitted herself in the editing of the first Cotner annual, entitled the "Croaker," in 1908 and the Cotner Collegian in 1908-'09. Since her marriage to Elmer Child, their biographical sketches are inseparably linked. In October, 1915, Mr. and Mrs. Child began their work in the Mexican Institute, located in one of the suburbs of San Antonio, Texas. This institute was established by the C. W. B. M. three years ago and is now maintained by the same organization. The building where the work is carried on is a modern, well equipped structure. The work consists of a continuous attempt to implant Christian ideals in the lives of the hundreds of Mexican people who live in numerous huts surrounding the Institute. Daily classes in the study of the English language, sewing, millinery, etc., are conducted and Bible classes on Sunday are held in both the English and Mexican language, native helpers assisting. The opportunity for work is great and much is being accomplished by Mr. and Mrs. Child.

Clara Dill, another member of the '09 class, is doing a worthy work on the home missionary field. The early years of her life were spent at Cheney, Nebraska. After her parents moved to Bethany, she attended public and high school there and then entered Cotner University Academy and later the College of Arts. Miss Dill also pursued the study of music, receiving her diploma from the Cotner School

of Music in June, 1914. Following her graduation from Cotner in '09, Miss Dill taught for two years in the rural schools near Portland, Oregon. She entered the College of Missions in the fall of 1914, remaining there for one year.

Hazel Green, in Wolfe County, Kentucky, is a small village in the valley of the Red River. It is surrounded by lofty hills and here and there the clear mountain water forms sparkling brooks. This uniquely situated village is the home of the Hazel Green Academy, which is the oldest mountain school conducted by the C. W. B. M. It is here that Miss Clara Dill is working; teaching in the day school and assisting in numerous ways with the children of different ages who come to the academy. On Sunday she and other teachers go up farther into the mountain districts and conduct Sunday school work among the poor, but appreciative people of that locality.

On the Pacific coast, C. F. Swander, '01, is corresponding secretary and superintendent of missions for the Christian Missionary Society of Oregon. He has been in this work for eight years, during which time the number of churches has increased from ninety-eight to one hundred and twenty-eight and the membership of the churches from twelve to eighteen hundred. Mr. Swander's task is to organize churches, settle disputes, hold meetings, gather funds, conduct rallies and conventions and direct the entire missionary work of the state.

Mr. Swander points to Iowa as his birthplace. His early manhood was spent as a school teacher, a printer and a preacher on Sundays. Four years were spent in Cotner, student preaching being done on Sunday. In 1904, he was a candidate for Governor of Nebraska on the prohibition ticket but says, "Be sure and tell folks I wasn't elected. I don't want to receive false

honors." He was pastor at Ashland, Medford and McMinnville, Oregon, before beginning his present work.

One of the great missionary forces in America is the Chrisitan Woman's Board of Missions. Nebraska is fortunate to have its work under the direction of Miss Cora Hemry, '93. This lady was born in the Buckeye state in 1875. Early in life she came, with her parents, to Fairfield, Nebraska. Here she attended school. Upon graduation from Cotner, she became a school teacher, holding for many years an important place in the Omaha public schools. When Mrs. Calla Scott Willard gave up the C. W. B. M. work on account of ill health, a new leader was found in Miss Hemry. Her time is completely taken in visiting churches, attending conventions and planning and perfecting the women's missionary work of the state.

Cotner University has not been untrue to that great Macedonian call, "come over and help us." When the call for help from China, India, and other mission fields came echoing over the ocean waves the re-echo carried back the answer "we are coming." The missionary spirit lives in Cotner's halls to-day. Ten students belong to the Volunteer Band. May the missionary spirit grow until the sin of the world is consumed. Miss Minta Thorp was president of the Band during the last year.

## CHAPTER XXV

### Cotner of To-day

Cotner University is young in comparison with the lives of colleges. Has the quarter of a century of its existence brought to it progress and advancement? A review of the past, in three directions, the town, the church and the college, will show what time has wrought.

In 1890, the town of Bethany was a little village of scattered houses with none of the conveniences of a city. The population was only about two hundred, although much effort had been expended, during the two years previous, to interest people in the new enterprise. To-day, Bethany has a population of about twelve hundred. The town owns its own water and lighting plant, furnishing excellent accommodations to its citizens. Two street car lines give splendid connection with the city of Lincoln. A new, brick high school building has just been completed which will make possible a good twelve grade school. In every way Bethany is making steady progress.

From the beginning of the whole movement, the Bethany church and Cotner University have been so closely linked together that they are almost one. The church has suffered the same reverses as has the college. The faculty and students have been faithful to the work of the church while in turn the church has loyally supported the college. For twenty years all church services were held in the college chapel. The year 1909 witnessed the dedication of the new building which had been erected under the leadership of H. O. Pritchard. The present pastor, C. R. Neel, is doing most efficient work in piloting the church to greater achievements. The church membership is



about seven hundred. The Bible school has an average attendance of almost four hundred while all departments of the church are making steady progress. Because of the church and college, Bethany is the center of the Christian church work in Nebraska and from it, influence is radiated to all parts of the state. The men who have been pastors of the Bethany church are as follows: D. R. Dungan, three years; W. P. Aylsworth, two years; William Sumpter, one year; W. P. Aylsworth, three years; L. P. Bush, one year; A. D. Harmon, one year; A. K. Wright, two years; J. W. Hilton, four years; H. O. Pritchard, six years; C. R. Neel, two years. Others have served for short periods when there was no regular pastor.

In the field of Christian education, three advance steps have been taken which are of great benefit to Cotner.

- (1) The development of an educational conscience upon the part of the Christian churches within Cotner's field.

- (2) The unification of the educational work of the Christian churches of the United States.

- (3) The launching of a united financial plan in the form of the Men and Millions Campaign.

If the religious and moral elements were withdrawn the denominational college has little hope of existence. It cannot expect to surpass, although it may equal, the state institution from an intellectual standpoint. The church founded the denominational college as a means of perpetuating itself. Without this religious zeal and determination it could never have existed. Every religious body established one or more colleges but several lessons were to be learned after the buildings were erected and school begun. First, it was found that the college could not pay expenses from the tuition fund; that it was not a self-sustaining institution. Second, the plan of land endowment, which

was almost universally adopted, was in nearly every case a failure. The third and last lesson is not as yet thoroughly mastered by all, but it is the only solution of this problem of Christian education; it is that, the church must support the child of its creation, the Christian college.

It is much easier to get an individual, a church or any organization to give of their wealth for a definite purpose, such as the erection of a building or the launching of a new movement, than to a general expense fund. It was necessary, however, to teach the members of the Christian churches of Nebraska and adjoining states that this is imperative to the existence of Cotner University.

In 1912, the churches gave to Cotner as an educational offering \$52.34; in 1903, \$72.47, and in 1904, \$233.45. Such amounts are practically nothing compared to the expense of a university. A great advance, however, was made between the years 1911 and 1916, the educational offering being as follows:

August 1, 1911, to August 1, 1912.....	\$2522.57
August 1, 1912, to August 1, 1913.....	2294.40
August 1, 1913, to August 1, 1914.....	3309.36
August 1, 1914, to November 1, 1915.....	3755.89
November 1, 1915, to March 8, 1916 (4 mos.)	2183.55

For this great increase Chancellor Oeschger deserves much credit. No other Christian church college can point to such progress in this line. Grant K. Lewis, secretary of the American Christian Missionary Society, said, "There is no situation comparable in any other state to that which obtains between Cotner and its constituency." Cotner enjoys this result because of thorough work. The educational offering is taken upon the third Sunday of January. Upon this day the minister of each church is asked to give an educational address. Previous to this time the churches have been visited by the Chancellor or a Cotner field secretary to



**William Oeschger**

assist the pastor in securing pledges to meet the amount which has been apportioned them. Many of the pastors are Cotner alumni while almost every minister is in sympathy with the school. Perhaps no man ever connected with Cotner University labored more earnestly than has Chancellor Oeschger. He has given his time to this financial problem which is by no means

a pleasant task, and has created an educational conscience in Cotner's territory which has never before been equalled and has paved the way for still greater advancement in the future.

The second great advance step taken was, viz: the unification of the educational work of the Christian church in the United States. The idea which prevailed a quarter of a century ago, that every little town could support a college, has passed. This is an age in which all are beginning to realize the necessity for concentration. It takes enormous sums of money to equip and maintain a modern college, more by far than a local community can amass for that purpose. As the state has advanced and perfected the public educational system, the churches have felt the necessity for doing the same.

There has always been an overlapping of territory and more or less rivalry has existed between the educational institutions of the Christian church as has been true of the schools of other organizations. Recent years have witnessed what might be called a mass formation of the educational forces. This marks the first attempt toward unification in the direction of higher education although for years there has been concerted action in other fields such as the Foreign Christian Missionary Society, The Christian Woman's Board of Missions and the American Christian Missionary Society. A national Board of Education of the Disciples of Christ has been created and a definite territory assigned to each college, which territory is to be canvassed for both students and funds. Cotner's assignment consists of the states of Wyoming, Colorado, South Dakota, the northern half of Kansas and Nebraska.

The last step is an outgrowth of the increased educational conscience and the union of the Christian churches in a common cause. At first the Men and

Millions Movement was to be an attempt by the American Missionary Society, the Foreign Society and the C. W. B. M. to raise \$2,000,000 and to secure one thousand additional trained workers for missionary service. The movement was directed out of its original channel into a larger stream of activity including all the missionary societies and the colleges. The goal was to be one thousand trained workers and \$6,300,000. Of this amount \$300,000 was allowed to cover the shrinkage in pledges; \$2,500,000 goes to the missionary societies and \$3,500,000 to the colleges for improvements and endowment. The Business Men's Commission is to divide \$3,000,000 of the apportionment to the colleges, among the ten most prominent schools of the Christian church, viz:

Bethany College, Bethany, West Virginia.

Hiram College, Hiram, Ohio.

Transylvania University, Lexington, Kentucky.

Butler College, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Eureka College, Eureka, Illinois.

Cotner University, Bethany, Nebraska.

Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa.

Christian University, Canton, Missouri.

Phillips University, Enid, Oklahoma.

Texas Christian University, Waco, Texas.

The remaining \$500,000 is to be apportioned among the smaller schools.

Mr. R. A. Long has offered to give \$1,000,000 when the Men and Millions team has secured \$5,300,000 for this great forward movement. Mr. Long, the distinguished layman of the Christian church, is bestowing upon the world a marvelous blessing by giving of his wealth.

While the work of the Men and Millions Movement is not yet completed, its ultimate success is practically assured. When Cotner has received the \$225,000 which is her share of these millions, she will be ready

to enter the field of great universities.

Cotner has been making advances all along the line. During the past few years improvements in a material way have been made. The gymnasium was erected in 1907. The properly equipped platform was added in 1915, making a splendid auditorium for all public gatherings. The new modern heating plant is a wonderful improvement. The library, which is now under the efficient management of Miss Josie Somers, is growing each year. Cotner has never witnessed a phenomenal growth, but is comparable with the man we call a "plodder," slowly but surely: accepting success and reverses as they come.

During the twenty-seven years of her existence, Cotner has entrenched herself in the hearts of thousands. Human words would fail in an attempt to estimate the good accomplished. The history of the institution has been given in the pages of this book. We must now leave it for another quarter of a century. When the half century milestone has been reached, time will have wrought, through Cotner, even more marvelous wonders.

In a sort of reverie, let us stand before the great building. During the day, in our fancy, we can hear the voices of the scores of students as they pass here and there when the bell calls them to the class rooms; from the athletic field we hear the words of the old Cotner yell. During the night time, as if in a dream, we can see the building with its lofty spire towering above mother earth toward the blue sky; standing as a lonely sentinel watching over the quiet village of Bethany. All is softly kissed by the breezes that rustle through the trees. Amid the stillness and loneliness we feel that Cotner is a sentinel, in the turbulent world, guarding the lives of men. We feel its presence and are instinctively drawn to the Prince of Peace. Amid sunshine or shadows may Cotner University ever radiate His love and power.



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